Revision: The Art to Deliver

Human mind is very complicated and have an unlimited capacity to learn, which is almost similar in all of us. Inspite of such a huge capacity most of us deliver or perform only up to average or near about levels. Only a very few show 'out of box' or 'extraordinary' performances. Terms like success, toppers, etc., are associated with these very few persons only. Do you know, what makes these different? What they have which most of us do not have? When we look into the answers of these questions, one sentence strikes always in my mind, i.e. "Toppers are in the habit of doing the things differently." Here, surely the word differently has the art of revision or reconciliation of learning in its basis especially for the toppers of entrance examinations.

Why Revision

Revision plays a prominent role in preparation of school, college or other entrance exams. Once syllabus is covered, revision is a mandatory requirement for better scoring, even, if one had not covered 100% of syllabus but only 70% or so, still he has to revise what syllabus has been covered. It may even be useless to have covered vast syllabus and going for test or exams without proper revision. Because, all that vast topics one has covered might have erased out of memory or less remembered, thus require reconciliation to deliver properly.

Further more, revision has certain qualities like

- The more number of times you revise the better is your confidence and scoring chances.
- You get further clarity, thought, understanding and also interest in the subject or topic you study by revision.
- Revision enhances memory of the subject in terms of formulas, structures (Biology, Chemistry), diagrams (in Biology, Physics, Geography etc.), steps of derivations (in Physics, Maths), topic etc.
- It gives you command over the topics which are complex, vaguely or incompletely known to you. Your standards may rise to the extent that you may be able to derive the formula you forgot just before answering.
- Revision increases the rate of problem solving, i.e. your ability to answer the number of problems of Physics, Maths, Chemistry, etc., in limited amount of time. This helps you buy time to answer more questions in the given time and also think of ways to solve unanswerable questions.
- If you think all the attributes mentioned above due to revision are required, then one might not ask why revision is necessary.

To Revise Biology

Theoretical subjects like biology, medicine and other social sciences require more of memorisation besides understanding, hence

- Try to revise the topic using a diagram or picture concerned so that you remember the topic well in connection with it.
- In Zoology, you may face problems in different classes of animal, their sub-divisions like mammals, reptiles, birds (birds), fish, amphibians, reptiles, insects etc. They have differences in organ system, tissues, arrangement, mechanisms of physiology, metabolisms, etc. You may need to be clear with these concepts paying special emphasis. Even vertebrates and non-vertebrates differences need to be clear. Practice of diagrams helps in memorising the anatomy and physiology.
- In Botany, you come across different classes of plants which have differences in their life span, seedling or reproduction method etc. The toughest part comes in biochemistry like photosynthesis, respiration etc. Here, it is advisable that try to understand the complex chemical changes happening by discussion with your friends. It will benefit only amazing but also interesting to know how plants survive. Then practice steps in Krebs’ cycles (pathway) and other cycles in their biochemistry.
- Revise the scientific and medical terminology along with its meaning as this can enhance memory of the term. Familiarize with concerned scientists names.
- In Science many terms are of Greek or other origin. Try to learn with some clues and image visualisation. (EX; In SYNERGY- ‘syn’ means together and ‘erg’ means energy).
- Last but not the least, practice the diagrams as you may need to draw, label and explain while answering. The diagrams help to enhance the scores or marks awarded for the answer.

Concepts-misconcepts @ revision

Remember, revision is not something that starts in the end of academic session rather it is what you do daily. It starts very first day when you learn something new. Everything that is taught in your class needs to be revised on the very same day. Many a times, we tend to miss out on writing some points when the teacher speaks. It is best to pen them down when they are still fresh in the memory.

Techniques to Revise Effectively

- It is always better to prepare a revision schedule on daily basis and after making the schedule, it is must to possess the will to abide by that.
- It is not necessary to revise large number of chapters every day.
- Revision must be slow and steady. It must be in the order to get firm grip on all types of questions asked on that topic.
- Revise as many times as possible the entire subjects.
- There is a huge difference between revision and repetition, i.e. revision is not going through all the notes over and over again.
- The specialized feature of revision is lessening of time in each and every attempt, i.e. time consumed in revising the same content every time is less than the previous one. A potential aspirant can revise the complete content of Physics syllabus in about two and a half hours in its 4th or 5th revision cycle.
- Decrease in the time of revision is possible only when you have a proper analysis of ‘what to revise’ and ‘what not to revise’. Such an analysis can be done on the basis of ‘what you know’ and ‘what is whipped off from your memory after learning’. Every time when you go for only those parts which are whipped off, you find a lesser content to revise. This, in turn, certainly requires lesser time to reconcile.
- Understand the concept and don’t just mug. This is a big mistake made by many school going students till the mind maturity. Understanding the concept shows you the actual sweetness of the subject and makes you perceive even more of the subject with enthusiasm.
- The difference between mugging and understanding is that, mugging is a memorising aspect while understanding is realising the facts about the subject or topic with its related prior knowledge.
- Once you revise try to answer a previous question paper, i.e. past papers to see your progress.
- Some subjects may not be liked by us but try to accept that they are to be mastered for good scoring.
- Use same notes or books or study material for all the revisions as that, mugging is a memorising aspect while understanding is realising the facts about the subject or topic with its related prior knowledge.
- There is no substitute for hard preparation and excitement and enthusiasm in revision.
- Last but not least you are the best to know your situation, analyze it thoroughly and work out the best method for your revision. Think for yourself, you are mature enough to organize your own study plan. Use your discretion to judge what will work for you and what will not.