

What you need from a study group

THE STATE 09/02/17
MS-19

A STUDY group is a great way to revise but putting one together can be tricky. Here's how to form one that will help you get the most out of communal learning.

what. Tip: pick a regular time and don't make exceptions. It's too difficult to accommodate the needs of half a dozen people.

Think outside the comfort zone

Your friends will talk to you anyway; get together a group of people you don't know so that you get new angles of perspective.

Pick a good place

Pick somewhere quiet so that you're not being blasted by music or interrupted by friends. An empty classroom or study room is ideal. A cafeteria is okay as long as you don't pick meal times when crowds will make it hard to concentrate.

Keep it small

Instead of "the more, the merrier" think "too many chefs spoil the broth". Three is all right but a group of four is ideal as you can pair off. Six is about maximum; any more and you have too many opinions and not enough time for everyone to have meaningful question time.

Take turns to be a teacher

Explaining a topic to someone else is the best way to find out what you know and what you don't. Take turns to present topics and share your notes.

Outline a plan of action

You've got a study guide, so plan your meetings accordingly. Decide how long each meeting will be, how much you'll cover and who will be responsible for

Plan for exam revision

Once you're used to each other, you'll find it helpful to revise for exams too. So plan one session to predict what will come up in the exams, and more sessions to revise the trickiest concepts.