BBC Learning English

Exam Skills

Preparing – The day before and on the day



Comprehension

Activity 1

Here is some advice about taking exams that Fred has given you. Unfortunately, not all of it is good advice!!! Read / listen to the programme and correct the *bad* advice below.

Well, my advice is to keep revising until the last minute – you don't want to waste any time. Not many people feel nervous before exams, so you shouldn't either. On the other hand, some stress can actually help you focus and perform well during the exam.

Remember - this exam is *really* important, so don't make any mistakes! You've only got one chance – you're not allowed to take exams again!

Don't forget! The most important thing is to study as much as possible until right before you walk into the exam! Good luck!

Don't worry about taking anything to the exam – the examiners will give you everything you need. Also, try to get to the exam venue exactly at the right time – you don't want to be there any longer than necessary. It doesn't matter if you're a few minutes late.

Activity 2 Rewrite the text above using what you have learnt so that it is *good* advice.

KEY

Well, my advice is to keep revising until the last minute—you don't want to waste any time. don't

revise the day before the exam – have a day off to relax and absorb what you have learnt. Not many

people feel nervous before exams, so you shouldn't either. Most people feel nervous before exams, so

you're not alone! On the other hand, some stress can actually help you focus and perform well during

the exam.

Remember - this exam is really important, so don't make any mistakes! You've only got one chance

you're not allowed to take exams again! it's only an English language exam and it's not the end of the

world if something goes wrong – you can always take the exam again.

Don't worry about taking anything to the exam – the examiners will give you everything you need.

Make sure you take everything you need to the exam – get it all organised the day before. Don't forget

you might need some identification, especially if it's an international exam. Also, try to get to the exam

venue exactly at the right time - you don't want to be there any you don't want to be there any longer

than necessary. It doesn't matter if you're a few minutes late. Make sure you know where the exam is

and how to get there and arrive at the venue with plenty of time. You don't want to be rushing around

at the last minute.

Don't forget! The most important thing is to study as much as possible until right before you walk into

the exam! Make sure you have a day to relax the day before the exam – don't keep revising until the

last minute, it's important to have a good rest. Good luck!