

IB Revision Checklist

A printable checklist to plan, execute, and track effective IB revision.

Student name:	-----
Exam session:	May / Nov -----
Subjects:	-----
Target grades:	-----

How to use this

Tick items as you go. Revisit this list weekly. Aim for frequent short sessions, active recall, and past paper practice.

Quick rules that boost grades

- Use active recall (self-testing) more than re-reading or highlighting.
- Space your revision over days/weeks (short, repeated sessions).
- Interleave topics (mix topics in one session) to improve transfer.
- Mark like an examiner: use command terms and include required detail.
- Do past paper questions under time pressure and review mistakes.

Tip: After each session, write: (1) what I got wrong, (2) why, (3) how I will fix it.

Core revision checklist (all IB subjects)

1) Set up your plan

- Write your exam dates and work backwards to create a weekly plan.
- Choose 2-3 priority topics for the week (based on weakness, not comfort).
- Create a simple daily routine (start time, duration, break rule).
- Prepare resources: syllabus points, notes, flashcards, past papers, markschemes.
- Decide your tracking method (topic mastery %, streak, or weekly checklist).

2) Learn and understand

- For each topic, write a one-page summary from memory (then compare to notes).
- Create a glossary: key terms, definitions, and common exam phrases.
- Make at least 10 flashcards per topic for definitions, processes, and examples.
- Identify typical diagrams/models and practise drawing them quickly and neatly.
- Explain the topic out loud in 2 minutes (if you cannot, you do not know it yet).

3) Practise like the exam

- Answer short-response questions using the exact command term (state, explain, analyse, evaluate).
- Use markschemes: check what earns marks and what does not.
- Do timed sets (10-20 minutes) and build to full papers.
- Keep an error log: concept gap, misread command term, missing example, poor structure, timing.
- Re-do the same question 3-7 days later without notes.

4) Review and improve

- Each week, update your weak-topic list and plan the next week around it.
- Turn your error log into new flashcards and mini-lessons.
- Practise the hardest question types first (the ones you avoid).
- Ask: What would full marks look like? Add missing depth, examples, and evaluation.
- Sleep, hydration, and short breaks are part of revision (protect them).

Exam skills checklist

Command terms mastery

- I can recognise what each command term requires (how many points, depth, judgement).
- I know the difference between describe vs explain vs analyse vs evaluate.
- I match my answer structure to the mark allocation (1 mark = 1 clear point).
- I use comparative language when asked (both similarities and differences).
- I include a clear conclusion when asked to evaluate / discuss / to what extent.

Answer structure (high scoring)

- I write in clear, separate points (not one long paragraph).
- I use subject vocabulary accurately and define key terms when needed.
- I support points with evidence: data, examples, theory, or case study.
- I show working for calculations and label units (where relevant).
- I manage time: I know my minutes-per-mark and move on when needed.

Subject add-ons

ESS (Environmental Systems & Societies)

- I can draw and label key ESS systems diagrams (energy flows, cycles, feedback loops).
- I can interpret graphs and data sets and link patterns to processes.
- I can evaluate environmental strategies using pros/cons, stakeholders, and limitations.
- I have 2-3 real-world examples for each major topic (with place + detail).
- I can use ESS vocabulary precisely (e.g., resilience, carrying capacity, tipping point).

Business Management (BM)

- I can apply BM tools to a case: calculations + interpretation (not just the formula).
- I can write evaluative conclusions (recommendation + justification + limitations).
- I can link decisions to stakeholders and objectives (short vs long term).
- I know my key definitions and can use them in context, not as memorised lines.
- I practise data-response questions: selecting relevant data and explaining what it shows.

Weekly tracker (tick when done)

Week 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned topics	<input type="checkbox"/> Active recall	<input type="checkbox"/> Timed questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed mistakes
Week 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned topics	<input type="checkbox"/> Active recall	<input type="checkbox"/> Timed questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed mistakes
Week 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned topics	<input type="checkbox"/> Active recall	<input type="checkbox"/> Timed questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed mistakes
Week 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned topics	<input type="checkbox"/> Active recall	<input type="checkbox"/> Timed questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed mistakes
Week 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned topics	<input type="checkbox"/> Active recall	<input type="checkbox"/> Timed questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed mistakes
Week 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned topics	<input type="checkbox"/> Active recall	<input type="checkbox"/> Timed questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed mistakes
Week 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned topics	<input type="checkbox"/> Active recall	<input type="checkbox"/> Timed questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed mistakes
Week 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned topics	<input type="checkbox"/> Active recall	<input type="checkbox"/> Timed questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Reviewed mistakes

Final 72 hours checklist

- Re-do your biggest error-log questions without notes.
- Prepare a one-page summary for each remaining weak topic.
- Practise 1 timed paper or a full section (then review carefully).
- Pack materials: pens, calculator (if allowed), ruler, ID, water bottle.
- Plan sleep: no all-nighters. Stop heavy revision the night before.

Want a personalised plan? Create a Smart Study Plan in Aimnova and focus only on your weak areas.

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