

Revision

**DON'T
PANIC**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cN6_00_PwCw

Exam Technique

You have 3 hours, so 1 hour per question.

I would suggest using the time as follows:

10 - 15 minutes planning

30 - 40 writing answer

5 - 10 checking your answer

You do not need to:

- Reference articles/books in an exam. Just say 'Philosopher X says Y'
- Have to write something completely original in order to get a first

You should:

- Plan before writing. Decide your conclusion before writing. Then tell the reader what that conclusion is, in the first paragraph of your answer.
- Have a clear structure. Tell the reader what you will do;
'I will now consider possible objections to my conclusion and show them to be unsuccessful'
'I will now outline X's main argument for their theory'
'X gives the following three examples to illustrate this point'
- Stick to the question. Only include relevant arguments to your conclusion
- Use your own examples and your own words. If there is a famous example, try to think of a small alteration you could make in order to 'make it your own'.
- Write clearly enough so your examiners can read what you say.

You should not:

- Include 'fluff' in order to bump up the word count. If its not an argument relevant to your conclusion, get rid of it. Consider

"This philosopher, born in Venice, is famous throughout the western world. We learned loads about her in history - that's how far her influence reaches! I even saw a documentary on him once",
isn't relevant to the question

'What are X's arguments for realism about mathematics'.

And wont get any marks, even if she was born in Venice and is super

famous.

- Rub out your essay plan. Leave it there - if the worst happens and you run out of time you might glean a few marks from it
- Concentrate on the one question you feel you know really well, spending 2 hours on it and ½ hr on the other 2. Getting from a 30 to a 40 is so much easier than getting from a 60 to a 70 - concentrate your efforts mostly equally or you may end up with one really bad mark pulling your average down a great deal.

But I don't know how to revise philosophy!

Then do some/all of the following:

1. Read through the lecture notes. Make sure you understand them. Try to summarize them without looking onto an A4. Try to explain the concepts to a non philosopher.
2. Read through the key readings. Try to understand the main points. Try reading them aloud, or highlightling key words. See how they relate to the lecture notes. Summarize onto A4. Go onto the blog and check you know the answers to all the questions for that reading.
3. Plan answers to the sample exam questions on pgs 3, 4, 7 and 8 of this guide
4. Do practice exams, give yourself an hour to write out an answer to one of the questions on pgs 3, 4, 7 and 8
5. Read through your old essay questions. Make sure you understand what you did right and what you did wrong.
6. Read through your friend's essay questions, especially those that got high marks. Be sure to read critically; what could be done better? What is different to what you do? Look at the comments they got and don't assume that if they something different to you that they are right!
7. Answer another essay question, either in a skeleton plan or written out in full
8. Meet up with a friend from the course and give a presentation on a topic/paper from the module. Ask your friend if everything you said sounded right.
9. Make a poster with key words for each topic and stick it to your mirror. Everytime you brush your teeth, ask yourself; 'what does that mean'?
10. Make an advert for internalism/realism about fictional characters/whatever, stating in bold bright colours why you should become an internalist (or whatever) and why the arguments against internalism are wrong. Pin it to your wall.