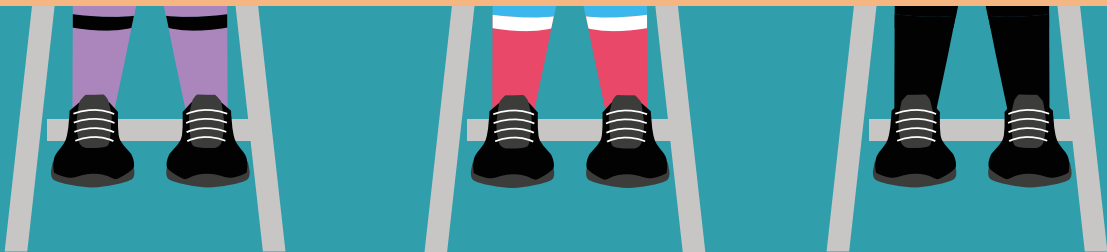


# Kooth's Guide to Coping with Exam Stress



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## Coping with Exam Stress

Exam season can be incredibly stressful for students of all ages. Here's a few tips and tricks to help you cope with exam stress.

These are just a few techniques to try, what really matters is finding what works best for you.

### **Take a break**

Scheduling regular breaks and being able to recognise when you need a break when you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, can be really helpful.

This can be really difficult, especially when you're under pressure and may feel like a waste of time or bring up feelings of guilt.

However a change of scenery may make your time revising afterwards feel fresher and more productive.

### **Mapping out your studies**

It may also help to try out a few ways to feel more on top of your studies. This might include:

- Writing down what you feel you know well and the areas you'd like to know better.
- Make a revision plan and mark off each module or topic area you've covered.
- Or, if you're feeling creative, you could draw a pathway towards exams and out the other side, where you can chart your progress along the way.

Really, anything from a spreadsheet to some rough notes can work--do what you feel most comfortable with.

## **Taking a moment**

Taking a moment when you feel especially frazzled or anxious to calm yourself can be a useful one to master both during revision and exams.

For some, meditation, grabbing a cup of tea, deep breathing or taking a few minutes outside in nature even if only for a couple of minutes, can be beneficial.

## **Taking care of your needs**

Drink plenty of water and try to eat regular meals. Staying hydrated really can help you feel better, both physically and mentally, as it's important you meet your brain's energy needs.

Especially during times of revision, where you're reading and straining your mind a lot, water is important to help avoid dehydration headaches. While regular meals can help you maintain a good routine.

## **Switching off**

Avoid screens at least an hour before bedtime. Switching off can go a long way in helping you to fall and stay asleep which will help keep your mind fresh for your exams and can help you manage or reduce your stress level.

If possible, having an environment where to rest or relax which is different to where you study, can help you switch off.

## **Moving your body**

Try 'shaking it out', or getting up from your desk and doing some light stretches. Moving your body is a great way to avoid stiffness and to better concentrate well for longer periods of time overall.

## Talking about what's on your mind

- Talk to a friend or other trusted person about how you're feeling. Sometimes just venting it out can be such a destressor!
- Reach out to your supervisors, tutors, or student support if you're struggling. It may be that you could apply for a deadline extension for a piece of work or find some help with time management or study skills.

## Positive affirmations

Try repeating some positive affirmations to yourself, such as "I'm doing my best," "I can do this," or "Just keep swimming!"

## Journaling and music

Writing down what's on your mind in a journal or listening to some calming music- are great ways to get tensions and anxieties out of your body.

Whatever you choose to do, be kind to yourself. Give yourself some space to do the things that might help you feel calmer or help you gain a bit of perspective.

## Find Support

Explore free, safe and anonymous mental health and wellbeing support on **Kooth.com**



