

Top 10 tips for CFA[®] Program exam preparation



Book 1 month for review.

The "review phase" should start once you have completed all your reading. This means reading finishes in April and you dedicate May to revision.



Be active.

Reading is passive and not the best use of your time. Question practice is active. Making lists is active.



Find a buddy.

Studying and revising with others can be more fun and productive. If you can't find work colleagues or friends who want to revise with you, then join an online forum.



Take a break.

Sitting in front of books/devices for hours is not always productive. Get some fresh air! Go to the gym, catch a movie, play the piano – you get the idea!



Focus on weaknesses.

Don't waste time on material you know. It might make you feel good, but it isn't the best use of time. Focus on areas you are not sure about.



Get a feel for the exam.

Use a variety of different sources to get a feel for how the different areas of the syllabus are examined. Fitch questions are good, but also use the questions in the official CFA Program books. Their questions are actually part of the official syllabus.



Accounting ratios.

Understand which are important and how they are tested. NOTE the questions often don't involve calculations. More likely they test the effect of an accounting choice on the ratio.



Key formulae.

Make a list and make sure you learn them! When doing questions remember to write the formulae down. It is a good way to learn them.



Debrief properly.

After taking a mock exam spend as long debriefing as you do taking the actual mock. Pay particular attention to questions that you got wrong, but also identify why your answers were correct.



Enjoy it!

This is the time when it should all start to come together and you start to realise that all the work has been worthwhile. Take confidence from what you know already.

Fitch Learning offers a variety of review packages to help consolidate knowledge and prepare you for the exam.

Visit fitchexamprep.com/review-options for more information