Preparing for an exam retake: turn mistakes into a dated study plan

Worked example

Imagine a fictional retake on 2026-11-14. Between 2026-11-03 and that date, this student has five available sessions: 160 minutes in total, or 2 hours 40 minutes. This small example covers fractions and expansion of brackets; it is not enough evidence that an entire syllabus will fit.

Make a correction you can explain

Recorded mistake	Gap to investigate	Corrected worked step	Fresh check
3/4 + 1/2 = 4/6	Added numerators and denominators separately	3/4 + 2/4 = 5/4	2/3 + 1/4 = 11/12
2(x + 3) = 2x + 3	Did not multiply the second term	2(x + 3) = 2x + 6	3(y - 2) = 3y - 6
3 × 5 rectangle: answered 15 for perimeter	Answered a different quantity	2 × (3 + 5) = 16	4 × 6 rectangle: perimeter 20

Schedule the time you actually have

Date	Local time	Minutes	Visible result
2026-11-03	18:30-19:00	30	Attempt two diagnostic problems; open an error log
2026-11-05	18:30-19:00	30	Correct the fraction method; try a different fraction problem
2026-11-08	10:00-10:40	40	Mix fractions and bracket expansion; explain each step
2026-11-10	18:30-19:00	30	Attempt fresh questions without the worked answers
2026-11-12	18:30-19:00	30	Recheck remaining gaps; confirm materials and unresolved questions
Total minutes		160	

Source and edition: Carnegie Mellon University, Eberly Center: Exam Wrappers

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Your notes

Fill the blank fields with your own records.

Name / project

Confirmed retake conditions

Make a correction you can explain

Recorded mistake	Gap to investigate	Corrected worked step	Fresh check

Question

Actual result / open question

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Your notes

Fill the blank fields with your own records.

Schedule the time you actually have

Date	Local time	Minutes	Visible result
Total minutes			

My next action

Date

Actual result / open question