



Study Skills

TIPS AND TRICKS

From S6 Pupils

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Study Techniques

These techniques are ones many S6 said worked best for them. However, don't just stick to these, try others, and see what works best for you.

Flashcards



Flashcards are a very useful and versatile technique as you can use them for any subject. Some ways are to use them are:

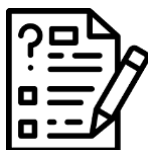
Front	Back
Quote	Analysis
Technique/Term	Definition
Section/Hint word	Quote

Mind-maps



Mind-maps are another extremely useful and visual technique to help learn material for different subjects. They can range from essay plans to quotes or techniques or equations. Once made you can stick them up anywhere and use them to look over notes.

Past Papers



Past Papers are probably the best way to study. You can find a lot on the SQA website where you'll get past papers for all subjects as well as marking schemes, but you can also get them marked by your teacher. You can also ask your teachers as they may have some that are no longer on the website or just other example questions.

Useful Websites, YouTube Channels and Textbooks

ALL SUBJECTS

- Quizlet
- BBC Bitesize
- SQA website
- e-Sgoil
- WestOS
- Understanding Standards (example essays and their marks)
- Leckie&Leckie "grade booster" Textbooks
- Hoddder&Gibson "how to pass" Textbooks

MATHS

- Highermathematics.co.uk
- Dynamicmaths.co.uk
- @DBLmaths
- @MrThomasMaths

LANGUAGES

- Languagenut.com
- WordReference.com

SCIENCES

- mrsphysics.co.uk
- jabchem.org.uk
- @MissAdamsChemistry
- @MrMitchell (Biology)

Studying Tips

Find out what works for you!

Try a range of techniques. If something doesn't work for you, either you're struggling to use it or it's just not helping you learn the information then just stop using it and try something else. I'd suggest having a look online or asking others how they study to learn new techniques as there may be something out there that's perfect for you, but you've just not tried it yet.

Remember everyone studies differently so don't just stick to what works for other people as it may not work for you!

Make your notes visible!

Once you've created visual notes such as posters, mind maps, essay plans or flashcards, put them up somewhere you're going to see them. Either on the wall, above your desk, your cupboard or even mirror, that way you can quickly read over facts and notes while getting ready helping to learn them through constant reminding.

Add colour!

Not only does colour make your notes visibly appealing but it can also keep them organized. You can use it in many ways to help sort your notes into categories, from subjects to topics and texts to techniques. Using colour-coding and keeping them consistent will be a lot of help when for using and finding notes.

Make good notes!

Don't leave your note making till the last minute. If you can, take clear notes in class or if you aren't able to try spending time after school rewriting them. You'll thank yourself later.

Also, if you can, make flashcards after you finish each topic in class as it will save time later and consolidate knowledge better.

DO NOT LEAVE STUDYING TILL THE LAST MINUTE!

Start studying early!

I know everyone says this, but it is the most important. Start your studying as early as you can. This gives you enough time to go over all your coursework, find your weaknesses and work on them. It also allows you to do practice papers and get it marked by a teacher.

Find time to study!

Try devoting some time each day to study. I know this may be hard for people in which case don't worry too much, just do what you can. However, if you can, try spend at least half an hour after school studying. This can be as simple as looking over or rewriting notes, doing any homework, or finishing work you didn't do in class. This said don't work constantly, take breaks, and relax.

Be kind and don't overwork yourself. Take breaks!

How to Study

Tips on how to start studying and not get distracted

Make a Study Plan!

First thing first we recommend making a study plan before starting, the more detailed the better. Rather than just putting “Study English for an hour” try being more specific, put the topic you’re studying or text you’re going to look over. This will help you to start studying as you will know exactly what you’re going to do. Again, try make this colourful and put it somewhere you will easily see it.

Putting your Phone Away!

For many people their phones are the biggest distraction. But there are ways to solve this.

- Simply putting your phone out of the room.
- Using a special timer app. There’s a number of these you could use but one example is Flora – Green Focus
- Filming a timelapse of yourself studying, this both stops you going on your phone and is nice to watch back after, can make you feel more accomplished
- Giving it to someone else to keep while your studying, they will stop you from going on it and can make sure you accomplish all you need to

Listening to something!

This one is vary varied between people, some recommend listening to music while others say it’s distracting. However, listening to something doesn’t have to be your usual music. I recommend listening to something that doesn’t involve words, either soft instrumental music or background noises/white noise (rain or sounds of a café).

Timer Techniques!

A good way to stay focused is to have a good work rest ratio. Here are two examples:

- Pomodoro Technique – This varies with timing but basically its ratio of studying:rest in minutes (50:10, 45:15, 25:5) which you repeat however many times you want.
- Decreasing Times – this is a technique like Pomodoro where you work then break continuously however this time you decrease the time you’re studying after each break. (i.e., 50 mins work, 10 mins break, 40 mins work, 10 mins break, 30 mins work, 10 mins break and so on till 10 mins work which equals 2 ½ hours studying in total)

Track Your time

Don’t just rely on checking a clock for times. Make sure to set a timer using either your phone/iPad, certain apps or even YouTube videos. These are good for Pomodoro as they split the time up for you and often contain background noise or music which changes, alerting you of the break. So, you don’t need to be constantly focusing on the time to know when to stop. (Just search Pomodoro Timer)

Study Elsewhere

Another tip that was mentioned by several of the S6 was going somewhere else to study. This can either be somewhere in your house beside your bedroom, where there may be less distractions, or somewhere else, like school, a library or even a café.

Be Prepared!

Try have everything you will need or want with you with when you start studying. This could include all your notes, jotters, iPad/laptop, stationary, water/drink and even a snack.

This means you won’t be tempted to leave your studying to get anything and can just focus.