

Information for Parents: Study Tips for Your Student

STEP 1 - Creating STUDY NOTES for each subject:

The first stage is to encourage students to make their own study notes on a regular basis. A great habit to develop is for students to make study notes at the end of each topic rather than waiting until just before exam time. This means students work through the topic, find the areas they don't understand and spend time working through them and writing down the important points. Making study notes means students organise the information in ways to make it easier to learn and this process reduces what they will need to read through to study.

Students should follow these steps to making summaries:

1. Look through all the material on the topic; their class notes, worksheets and textbook.
2. Make a list of the main headings or sections.
3. For each heading, read through the information and write down the key ideas in point form.
4. Try and put information into lists or tables whenever they can - the more they can organise the information the easier it will be to remember it.

STEP 2 - ACTIVELY REVIEWING the content:

Once students have some decent study notes it is time to move into the next phase: LEARNING AND PRACTISING!!!! Students have to learn, understand and sometimes memorise the content, then they have to practise applying what they have learnt by practising the skills of the subject. Students should keep alternating between learning and practising. At first they may spend more time learning than practising but as they start to move information into their long-term memory they'll spend less time reviewing their notes and more time practising under exam conditions.

LEARN the
content

*Keep alternating between
reviewing the content and
doing past papers or
review questions.*

PRACTISE
the skills

STEP 3 - Doing as many PAST EXAM PAPERS or QUESTIONS as possible:

- Do all papers UNDER EXAM CONDITIONS (time limits and without looking at notes)
- Students should mark/correct their work at the end or ask their teacher to check it.
- Students need to then see their teacher about things they could not work out.
- Students should add notes to their summaries about things they need to remember.
- After each paper, students then review areas they did not know properly.
- It is important that students try to do as many different types of practise questions as possible. It may be worth purchasing a study guide or a different textbook for subjects they find difficult so they have lots of questions to use as revision.

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