



1: STUDENT STUDY GUIDE

Come exam time, students work hard at remembering all they have learned in their lessons over the year. But hard work alone is not enough to be successful. Knowing which are the most effective strategies — along with a schedule that avoids an end-of-year cramming — will help them achieve their best results.

WORKING HARD AT THE WRONG THINGS



Re-reading and highlighting is a bad idea. It may make students feel good but, in reality, they will soon forget the content they have covered.

Here, by contrast, are the best five methods your students should know about and adopt.

1 RETRIEVAL PRACTICE



Retrieval practice means trying to remember material you have learned, so when you sit your test, it comes readily to mind. Like this:

- 1 Make a list of important info you need from a topic
- 2 Close the book and create a quiz for yourself
- 3 Try to retrieve everything you've committed to memory
- 4 Go back and check all your answers

2 QUESTIONING AND ELABORATION



Once you have learned a lot of material, what should you do with it?

Ask questions about it and make connections. Here are questions about this quote:

*Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand?*

- 1 Why does Shakespeare use this imagery here?
- 2 What does this reveal about Macbeth at this point?
- 3 How does this connect to what we know of Macbeth?

3 CONCRETE EXAMPLES

Concrete examples help concepts come alive — as in the transformation of lettuce depicting osmosis.



And in these questions used to find out exactly what an excellent essay looks like:

- 1 How has the essay been structured?
- 2 What particular phrases have been used?
- 3 What specific examples have been used as evidence?

4 SPACED PRACTICE

Recognising that procrastination is part of our nature, helps us avoid it. Cutting up revision into smaller chunks and spacing it out over a period of time is the best strategy to adopt.

For example, with 6 hours to prepare for a test in a week's time, here's how to space out the revision.

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
(30)	(30)	(30)	(30)	(30)		(30)
(30)	(30)	(30)	(30)	(30)	Relax!	(30)

5 INTERLEAVING

As with spaced practice, leaving gaps between studying is very effective. When studying multiple topics, mixing up the material you study adds to its impact. Such a mix is called interleaving.

M	T	W	T	F
MACEBETH	UNSEEN POETRY	AN INSPECTOR CALLS	JEKYLL AND HYDE	CREATIVE WRITING
AN INSPECTOR CALLS	JEKYLL AND HYDE	CREATIVE WRITING	MACEBETH	UNSEEN POETRY
CREATIVE WRITING	MACEBETH	UNSEEN POETRY	AN INSPECTOR CALLS	JEKYLL AND HYDE