A Level Business Independent Study Time – Use it or lose it

All those hours in school when you do nothing......will seem precious in May of Year 13 when you are trying to cram 2 years of work into your brain. Therefore, you need to use Independent study time wisely during year 12 in order to give yourself a decent chance of A Level success.

Independent study time should be used for two main purposes:

1. Consolidating your understanding of topics covered in the classroom
2. Building a bank of business examples that can be used to illustrate your answers to around 100 marks worth of questions in your A Level that expect you to illustrate your answers using real businesses you have studied

Consolidating your understanding – some activities:

Most revolve around that fat textbook you have.

- Read a chapter or section of the textbook that you are currently studying to deepen your understanding (try to tie up your teacher’s explanation with the textbook’s explanation)
- Answer the questions at the end of the chapter and hand these to your teacher – you don’t ‘know’ it well enough if you can’t answer questions on it
- Look up a topic on www.tutor2u.net – you may find a set of notes, or even a video explanation of it
- Re-work classroom activities to see if you can still answer those questions a few days later, or if you can improve your answers to any class questions or homeworks (perhaps indicated by teacher marking)
- Once you have got to half term, it’s time to regularly re-visit topics that you studied more than 6 weeks ago to ensure you can still remember key issues/formulae/methods/how to answer typical questions

Building a bank of business examples:

The real world is awesome (but sometimes a bit more complex than the classroom). As a minimum, you should:

- Read one business news story on www.bbc.co.uk/news/business every day. They are brief, topical and pitched at about the right level for you to understand.

In addition, students who want to succeed should try to do the following:

- Start a brief section in your folder in which you summarise your daily readings (what happened, which topics we’re studying are relevant)
- Keep a close eye on tv schedules for business programmes that come on. We’ll probably only flag them up after they’ve been on – so catch up is a probable option. Examples range from Greg Wallace going into factories, to specific programmes about an actual business or even investigations into a good or more likely bad thing a business did.
- Watch the start of a decent tv news programme every day – if the headlines include a business story – hang around to watch it
- Probably on catch up via iplayer – bbc business briefing is shown every day at 5.30 am!
- Also at the crack of dawn – but you can listen on your phone, is BC 5live’s ‘wake up to money’
- Check tutor2u’s news blog every couple of days – this chooses stories just for A Level Business students www.tutor2u.net/business/blog

You should also spend a lot of time referring to, referring back to, and checking your progress against...the spec:

Our plan for the year is this:

September – October
3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3

November – December
3.3.4, 3.5.1, 3.5.2, 3.5.3, 3.5.4

January – February
3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 3.6.1, 3.6.2, 3.6.4

March
3.4.4, 3.4.5, 3.6.3, 3.6.5

April – May
3.2.1, 3.2.2

June onwards
3.7.4, 3.7.5, 3.7.6

Weird numbers refer to different bits of the specification – look ‘em up

We reserve the right to change our minds part way through due to valid educational reasons!