

When studying Computer Science A-Level, it is important that you not only attend all of your lessons and complete all of your homework, but that you are also doing independent study. We would recommend that you are spending at least 5 hours a week on your independent study. In order for this study to be of maximum benefit it is important that you do a range of different activities, you should be doing some from each of the boxes below. In addition, if you would like to stretch yourself beyond the Computer Science A-Level curriculum then have a look in the super-curricular box for ideas.

Content

One important part of independent study is making sure you have learnt all of the content, below are some suggestions of things you can do to help learn the content in Media A-level:

- ✓ *Creating Quizlets and test yourself*
- ✓ *Creating mind maps and flash cards*
- ✓ *Creating summary sheets*
- ✓ *Get someone else to test you*
- ✓ *Making/remaking class notes*
- ✓ *Highlighting/ colour coding your notes*
- ✓ *Using a revision wall to display your learning*
- ✓ *Reading through class notes*
- ✓ *Using resources on the Class Team*
- ✓ *Practice Python programming skills*
- ✓ *Read and summarise the online course text from [Isaac Computer Science](#)*
- ✓ *Complete questions on the online course text at [Diagnostic Questions](#)*
- ✓ *Complete an online Python programming course at [Code Academy](#)*

Skills

Another important part of independent study is developing the skills to be able to succeed in the exams. Below are some suggestions to help you develop those skills:

- ✓ *Writing exam answers under timed conditions*
- ✓ *Planning or writing out answers to exam questions using your notes/textbook (not timed). Link to past papers and mark schemes: [AQA website](#)*
- ✓ *Practice writing short computer programs*
- ✓ *Buying one of the revision workbooks and completing the exam practice questions*

Feedback

The final important part of independent study is getting and using feedback. Feedback allows you to understand what it is you need to do differently next time in order to improve. Below are some ideas about how you can use feedback:

- ✓ *Marking your own work using a mark scheme*
- ✓ *Studying mark schemes or examiners reports*
- ✓ *Working with other students in groups/pairs*
- ✓ *Comparing model answers against your own work*
- ✓ *Creating your own exam questions*
- ✓ *Handing in extra exam work for marking*

Super-curricular Computer Science Studies

If you were considering studying Computer Science at university, or just really interested in the subject, then you could complete some super-curricular activities. These are things which go beyond what is covered in the curriculum and includes things such as creating your own programming projects, watching relevant documentaries, listening to computer science podcasts, reading relevant journal articles and books.

For up to date ideas look at the computer science Padlet