

When studying A-Level Philosophy, 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 specified 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 A-Level Philosophy:

- ✓ *Review anthology of texts and ensure they have been read in preparation for lessons*
- ✓ *Consolidate notes from lessons (utilising Cornell notes structure)*
- ✓ *Creating summary sheets of each specification topic*
- ✓ *Create flash cards of core knowledge*
- ✓ *Get someone else to test you on key concepts*
- ✓ *Using resources on the Catalogue to further your knowledge*
- ✓ *Reading course textbooks and summarising what you've read*
- ✓ *Completing questions in the textbook*

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:

- ✓ *Practice writing a variety of different styles exam questions under timed conditions*
- ✓ *Planning answers to exam questions using your notes/textbook (not timed). Past exam papers can be found on the [AQA website](#)*
- ✓ *Reading model answers*
- ✓ *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 markschemes or examiners reports*
- ✓ *Working with other students in groups/pairs to improve answers*
- ✓ *Comparing model answers against your own work*
- ✓ *Handing in extra exam work for marking*
- ✓ *One to one discussions with your teachers*

Super-curricular Philosophy

If you were considering studying Philosophy 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 watching relevant documentaries, listening to podcasts, reading relevant journal articles and reading relevant books.

For up to date ideas look at the Philosophy Padlet ([add your padlet link](#))