



TOP TIPS ON STUDYING

Start small

Try studying small bits of information at a time to introduce yourself to the process.

For example, in the evening after you finish your homework, pick a subject to try and study. Say you pick Irish, try to spend 20-30 minutes studying an irregular verb like “abair” in the past, present and future tense. Obviously only study something you’ve covered in class, there’s no point in tackling something new by yourself.

Make a plan/timetable

A study plan or timetable can make it much easier to study, especially before the exams. You can print out a template timetable [here](#).

Then fill in each empty box with the times you plan to study (try 20-30 minutes, e.g. 16:00-16:25) and the subjects you’ll be studying within those times on those days. This makes it easier to commit to studying a certain subject and you’ll save time too because you won’t be fretting about what to study next, it’ll be all laid out in front of you.

It’s important to stick to the plan too so that you don’t miss out on studying a certain subject.

Highlight/Underline

This is a great way of helping you remember information. Buy yourself a nice bright highlighter and when you’re studying a certain topic, highlight the words or phrases you think are important. This will make the words jump out at you when you revise them next and you’ll remember them more easily.

Practice past exam questions

This is a really important tip because testing yourself lets you see the topics you need to go over as well as to see if your study is paying off.

Be ready for the questions that you will face. Having access to all the past questions by topic from the last ten years lets you pick out obvious trends and be ready for the kinds of questions that will be asked. A BASIC account only gives you the last two years' questions in each topic.

Flashcards

Flashcards can be really a helpful way of studying because they break down big chunks of information into small, condensed pieces. You should be able to buy some flashcards (coloured ones help your brain remember better so I would get some coloured ones) in any good newsagents or stationary shop.

Then, when you're studying a subject, make out a flashcard on a certain topic and write only bullet points or vital pieces of info on it. I'll take Science for example again, take a card and write, say, "Food" at the top. Then on this card just write little points on Food. No long sentences, just small important points. Like the macronutrients (Fat, Protein, Carbs, etc.), a quick word on how to test for these nutrients, e.g. "Fat = Brown Paper Test".

Do your homework

Doing your homework is one of the best methods of study, so don't neglect it. Even if you fail to do any other form of studying (hopefully this won't be the case), if you've done all your homework throughout the year, you should still be able to do reasonably well. The homework you're given is to prepare you for the exams really so if you get a question to do at home, it's really like practising for the exam because a similar question could come up in the exam paper!

Stay organised

A neat work/study area is really important when it comes to studying well. If you're trying to study in a place where there are books, papers, folders, cups, pens, etc. everywhere, then your brain will find it harder to focus on what you're studying. If everything is neat and tidy however, it will be much easier to concentrate and you'll feel better and more focused in a clean environment.

Nothing's going in?

Some people just can't study by looking at books all evening, and that's pretty normal. It just means you're not a very visual learner, meaning you don't learn well by reading or seeing things. This means you need to try different tactics of studying.

Try watching videos of a certain topic instead. There are so many resources on the internet now that almost every topic imaginable can be taught over YouTube. You could also try drawing large, colourful diagrams or mind maps to make the topic clearer to you, instead of just reading words off a piece of paper.