



Catholic Regional College Sydenham

Policy: Home Study

Homework / Study

Homework and study are essential if you are to complete VCE to the best of your ability. Homework is used to complement and supplement the study of each subject, while study (often overlooked) aims to increase student understanding and retention of knowledge through encouraging ongoing, independent learning.

In VCE you need to find **two and a half to three hours** to complete homework and study each night. While the amount of homework set each night may vary, each student should allocate time to complete set tasks as well as study.

Homework

Homework tends to be task oriented, teacher directed and has set completion dates that students must meet. The types of homework set by teachers may be:

- a) Practical exercises - providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills.
- b) Preparatory homework - providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons.
- c) Extension assignments - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.

Home Study

Study tends to be student centred, self-initiated and should be ongoing in nature. Study can take the following forms:

- Re-reading class notes
- Practising vocabulary
- Revision of work completed earlier
- Wider reading
- Re-organising folders and notes
- Re-reading texts and novels
- Summarising notes and further reading
 - Revision or preparation exercises to be completed overnight or by a set date
 - Follow-up work or completion of tasks started in classes during the day.
 - Study to revise for tests and examinations
 - Projects to be completed over an extended period
 - Compilation of brief summaries of work on topics completed during that week
 - Reading materials relevant to specific subjects

Objectives

Home study and set homework is intended to:

- Aid recall and retention of ideas
- Develop the disciplined, responsible and effective study habits needed to do well in further education
- Develop the ability to think and work independently
- Develop the ability to plan and organise effectively.



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Principles

- Teachers should give some home study intended to fulfil the above objectives. The workload will vary during the year, however senior VCE education requires a consistent approach in order to achieve successful outcomes.
- Students should be encouraged to revise and study regularly throughout the year
- Students should use their school diary to keep accurate account of home study tasks and requirements
- The following table lists the recommended duration of home study at each year level:

Year level	Daily amount of home study	Hours of home study per week
11VCE	1 ½ hours – 2 ½	10 ½ - 17 ½
12VCE	2-3	14-21

- The table can be used as a guide to determine the amount of home study that students would be expected to do. Some students may do the set home study (homework) much more quickly. These students could use the spare time revising and studying, organising their notes and reading. In addition, the table is a guide to the amount of home study a student can realistically be expected to do. Where students are regularly spending excessive time on home study, parents/guardians should contact the student's homeroom teacher to discuss the problem
- In the senior years, it would be expected that students do a combination of set home study (homework), as well as regular review and study of course work to prepare them for mid-year and end of year VCE examinations
- Students should be given appropriate instruction in effective study techniques at each level and in each course of study.

Evaluation

- Teachers will be responsible for evaluating the home study (homework) expectations in the subjects they teach.
- Teachers are expected to set classwork/homework on the school learning platform SIMON at least once per fortnight. This work is generally marked as being satisfactory or unsatisfactory.
- Subject teachers will communicate any feedback regarding completion of homework via Parent Access Module.
- Students that do not complete homework tasks will be expected to complete their homework at an after school detention.

Implementation

i) Principal commitment

The principal is responsible for ensuring that:

- The objectives of this policy are integrated into practice

ii) Staff Commitment All staff will be responsible for:

- Giving home study according to the above guidelines and monitoring its completion
- Keeping accurate and up-to-date records of home study completion
- Communicating with parents/guardians when home study has not been completed via PAM and / or phone call
- Teaching appropriate study techniques in the context of each subject they teach