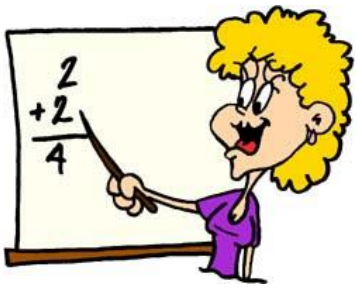
tsfx

VCE edgeonline

Minimise Study Time
Maximise Scores

Getting the Most from the Time You Spend at School



Students often make the **mistake** of daydreaming or tuning out in class, not realising that whatever they miss out on at school will take up to **5 times longer** to work through in their own time.

You spend over half of your learning time at school and should be maximising these opportunities so you can **cut down** on after school study commitments. The more you learn or address at school, the **less** you'll need to complete in your own personal time!

So what strategies can be used to maximise learning opportunities at school?

- **Minimise note taking when your teacher is explaining concepts or working through questions.**

You're likely to get confused or miss important concepts, making it harder and more time-consuming to complete your homework. Students who divide their attention between listening, watching and writing will only **remember about 5%** of what's covered in class, but will remember up to **50%** when they **just** focus on watching and listening to what's being presented. Therefore, spend as much time in class listening to, and absorbing, the information being delivered, and where possible, **only** write notes or copy examples when your teacher isn't speaking.

- **Try to keep ahead of school.**

  Know which topic is to be covered in your next class (or in the following week), and read through the relevant section in your text book. You may even like to try some questions – you'll have to work through them at some stage anyway, so you might as well do a few before they are assigned for homework! By working ahead:

- You'll be covering topics for the second time when you're in class.
- Your understanding of examinable materials will be **greatly improved**.
- You'll find it **easier (and faster)** to complete your homework – saving **huge amounts** in study time!
- You'll cut down on the time you need to prepare for tests and exams.
- Your **SAC marks** will also **improve**, giving you an added **advantage** in your VCE.

When working ahead, you'll also find that you **don't need** to take as many notes in class. Even if the topics being addressed are difficult, you will recognise the concepts that are in your text book and that don't need to be written down. This strategy will enable you to maximise learning in the classroom, and will **decrease** personal study commitments!

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- **Complete homework as it's given.**

Homework is usually assigned to give students the opportunity to strengthen new skills so they're better able to cope with the next section being addressed in class. Students who don't complete their homework are more likely to struggle with harder concepts, and end up spending more time on their studies.

Where possible, **complete homework on the same day it's given**, while topic materials are fresh in mind. The more you remember, the **faster** you'll get through your work, and the **easier** you'll find the next class. If you're short on time, complete homework in the subjects you have at school on the following day.

- **If you have trouble concentrating in class, sit at the front so you're removed from as many distractions as possible.**

  Don't worry about being labelled a nerd – improving your concentration levels will enable you to absorb course materials more effectively, saving huge amounts in study time.

- **Listen carefully to your teachers.**

  Remind yourself that if you don't pay attention in class, it will take you 5 times longer to work through the same materials on your own. Think of all the **extra work** this will add to your studies, and the **free time** you'll end up forfeiting.

- **Don't tune out when you know the topic being covered in class.**

  You may just learn something new, pick up on some new examination strategies, and at worst, you will have revised and further ingrained examinable materials into long-term memory. This will greatly **cut down** on the amount of study you'll need to do in the weeks leading up to your exams!

Hope your studies are progressing well.

Regards,
The Team at TSFX.