



VCE Exam/Study Tip 3: The Benefits of Getting Ahead in the VCE



Most students spend the entire school year looking forward to the summer holidays. No classes, no homework, no exams, just weeks and weeks of freedom and fun. Yet so many students choose to spend a decent portion of their holidays studying. Some students try to do it alone, while others take the faster and easier option by attending Summer School.

You might be wondering who in their right mind would want to study during what's supposed to be a relaxing break, but in fact, there are a lot of reasons why it's smart to get ahead, particularly if you're going into Year 11 or Year 12.

Reason 1: To Make the Following Year Easier

With the amount of work that VCE students need to juggle, there are very few opportunities to 'catch up' if you fall behind, or to revise/relearn topics that you may have neglected. Therefore, it's important to invest some time over the school holidays to **revise** the previous year's materials, and to work through the topics that will be covered in Term 1 **before** they're addressed at school.

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Reasons

Those students who do so will quickly realise the benefits when the same topics are covered in class. While other students struggle to understand the new concepts being delivered, you'll be hearing this information for the second time. As a result:

- You'll have a stronger understanding of examinable materials.
- Your ability to apply concepts will greatly improve, **reducing** the time you spend on homework.
- You'll write fewer notes in class, allowing you to **focus** on what your teachers are actually saying.
- You'll get more out of your classes at school, reducing the need for private tutors.
- You can use the time spent in class consolidating and applying key knowledge, and to ask your teachers the tough and insightful questions you wouldn't usually think of until you're revising for a SAC or exam.
- You'll achieve **higher VCE marks**.

Reason 2: To Reduce Stress & Cut Down on Study Time

Working through topics for the second time at school also has the following advantages:

- As your understanding of course materials will be stronger, you'll get stuck on questions less frequently. You'll be able to complete your **homework faster**, leaving more time for the more enjoyable activities!
- You'll engrain examinable materials into your long-term memory, decreasing the time and effort you'll need to spend preparing for SACs and exams!
- Assessments will be less stressful, so you can perform to the best of your abilities without test anxiety getting in the way.



Reason 3: To Improve Marks & Subject Ranks



To perform well in your SACs and rank highly in a subject, you need the skills and knowledge that can only come with repeated revision. By working ahead, you'll cover course materials three times (once across the school holidays, once in class and again when preparing for your SACs) – once more than the majority of your VCE peers. Your SAC **marks will improve**, giving you that **added advantage** in the quest for the highest possible subject ranks.

Reason 4: To Avoid Breaking the Momentum of Learning

Going back to school after a 6 to 7 week break is hard enough, let alone getting back into a daily study routine. Doing some regular study across January makes the transition back to school a lot easier, and also protects you from falling behind.

Reason 5: To Improve Confidence

Believe in Yourself.

One of the most important and well-documented benefits of getting ahead is the way it improves self-confidence in students, particularly when they begin to understand a subject they were previously struggling in. You'll be less likely to procrastinate your studies, reducing stress levels and study loads across the year.

Reason 6: To Build a Stronger Resume & Get an Edge when Applying to University

How can anyone stand out from the crowd when applying for jobs or university courses when there are so many students out there achieving good marks, participating in extra curricular activities, taking on volunteering roles, and generally going the extra mile?

By attending Summer School.

Sacrificing part of your summer holidays to study demonstrates a level of commitment to your own development, as well as a willingness to learn and experience new things, traits that are admired by university admissions teams.

Reason 7: To Get an Advantage Over Other VCE Students



The benefits of getting ahead are significant and far reaching. So dedicate some time over the school holidays for study-related activities and set yourself up with the best possible chances of success in your final school years.

Regards,
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