

5 hours in... English Literature

Research shows that the most successful students (i.e. those that make the most progress and get the highest grades) are doing between 20 and 25 hours of independent study per week by the end of Year 13. That may seem a lot, but it's something that you would build up to over the course of your A-Levels. In Year 12, we're talking something more like 15 hours per week. This equates to roughly 5 hours of independent study per A-Level per subject.

Remember that your independent study is divided into three types – Consolidation, Reactive and Proactive.

Consolidation

The evening following an English Literature lesson, you should spend 12-15 minutes (24-30 minutes for a double) rereading your notes, writing the summary section at the bottom of your Cornell notes and making relevant flashcards e.g. for plot, characters, themes, context, definitions you need to recall etc.

Reactive

This is your 'homework'. Each of your English Literature teachers should give you at least 1 hour of homework each week. If they don't – ask them for some! If you find this takes more than 1 hour, that's fine, you can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work.

Proactive

This is the section that will broaden and deepen your overall understanding of the subject you are studying. It will not necessarily involve work that has been set by your teacher, but instead it is about you doing the extra practice questions, reading secondary criticism, reading more widely around the set text etc. In English Literature, this might involve some of the following:

- Complete a practice past paper question – available on the AQA website **(1 hour)**
- Use websites/study guides to complete and add to class notes **(30 minutes)**
- "Read, Cover, Write and Check" sections of Knowledge organisers **(30 mins)**
- Wider reading and annotation of (extracts) other texts on the specification/by the author **(1 hour)**
- Reading and annotating critical material – essays and articles **(1 hour)**
- Creating revision materials: e.g. flashcards, mind maps etc. **(30 minutes)**
- Chapter summaries of set novels/coursework texts **(20 minutes)**
- Character profiles/mind maps **(10 minutes)**
- Theme trackers **(20 minutes)**
- Essay plans for example questions **(15 minutes)**

Useful links

- **Sparknotes:** <https://www.sparknotes.com/>
- **LitCharts:** <https://www.litcharts.com/>
- **Crossref-it:** <https://crossref-it.info/>
- **British Library:** <https://www.bl.uk/>



5 hours in... English Literature – your weekly review

Week beginning: _____

What have I been learning with _____? _____

What have I been learning with _____? _____

Consolidation (tick when complete)		Reactive 1	Reactive 2	Proactive 1	Proactive 2	Proactive 3
Lesson 1						
Lesson 2						
Lesson 3						
Lesson 4						
Lesson 5						
Time spent						

Total time spent on Independent Learning in English Literature this week: _____

Areas that require further review

Things I need to ask my teachers

Checked by: _____ (teacher)

5 hours in... English Literature – your weekly review example)

Week beginning: 14/09/2020

What have I been learning with Miss Murphy?

Pre-1900 Love Poetry – Wyatt and Shakespeare

What have I been learning with Miss Turrell?

War Poetry – The Outbreak of War

Consolidation (tick when complete)		Reactive 1	Reactive 2	Proactive 1	Proactive 2	Proactive 3
Lesson 1	✓	Read and annotate 'Sonnet 116' in preparation for Friday's 30. Make comparisons to 'Whoso list'	Write two paragraphs analysing how the outbreak of war is presented in 'The Eve of War.'	Create flashcards on form, structure, language and comparisons of 4 poems studied exploring outbreak of WW1.	Read two articles on Shakespeare's sonnet sequence from English review magazine in LRC.	Read three chapters of <i>Rebecca</i> by Daphne du Maurier. Create plot summary, theme tracker and comparisons to set text <i>Wuthering Heights</i> .
Lesson 2	✓					
Lesson 3	✓					
Lesson 4	✓					
Lesson 5	✓					
Time spent	1 hour	30 minutes	40 minutes	1 hour	40 minutes	1 hour 20 minutes

Total time spent on Independent Learning in English Literature this week: 4 hours 10 minutes

Areas that require further review

- Comparisons of sonnet form in 'Sonnet 116' and 'Whoso list'
- Presentation of the male speaker in 'Whoso list' – subverting norms?
- Themes present in 'The Eve of War' – what comment is poet making?

Things I need to ask Miss Murphy/Miss Turrell

- Shakespeare's sonnet form – how different is it from Petrarch?
- Is Heathcliff meant to be perceived as a villain? Interested in Miss Murphy's thoughts.
- Ask Miss Turrell about further poems to study for outbreak of war.

Checked by: _____ (teacher)