

5 hours in... English Lit

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, 15 hours of independent work per week is sufficient to ensure that you are working towards success in your A Level exams. This equates to roughly 5 hours of independent study per A-Level subject.

For each unit of your course, you are be provided with a home learning booklet and your teachers will set the sections you need to complete each week on ClassCharts. Your independent study is divided into three types – Consolidation, Reactive and Proactive.

Consolidation

Your booklet will provide consolidation tasks for you to complete which will help you to make sure you have understood and considered the material taught in class thoroughly. Sometimes, the tasks set will require you to revise content from earlier weeks to make sure key ideas are committed to your long-term memory rather than forgotten. In preparation for mock and final exams, you will need to complete revision notes, flashcards and essay plans.

Reactive

Once you have completed your consolidation tasks, you will be well equipped to complete the reactive tasks set in your booklets. These tasks will require you to apply the knowledge you have learnt in class and consolidated in the first part of your home learning to complete more extended tasks which will require deeper thinking and will help you to make progress towards being able to write excellent answers in your exams or NEAs. These tasks should be challenging but achievable and should take up most of your home learning time.

Proactive

In the remaining time after completing your consolidation and reactive work, you should complete the proactive tasks set in your booklets. These will generally be wider reading, podcasts to listen to or video clips to watch. Proactive work will deepen your knowledge and understanding and will give you insights beyond the essential material for the unit you are studying. You should complete your proactive work log and store any additional notes in your folders.

Past exam papers are available from the AQA website. Practising exam questions under timed conditions will be vital in preparation for meeting the demands of your final A Level exams under the tight time limits given.

Your teachers will also provide you with recommendations for broader additional further reading and texts that are available from the library where relevant.

Useful Links

AQA past papers and mark schemes: [AQA | AS and A-level | English Literature A | Assessment resources](#)

Sparknotes: <https://www.sparknotes.com/>

LitCharts: <https://www.litcharts.com/>

Crossref-it: <https://crossref-it.info/>

British Library: <https://www.bl.uk>