

# 5 hours in... RE

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 RE lesson, you should spend 12-15 minutes (24-30 minutes for a double) rereading your notes, writing an A4 summary and making relevant flashcards of key words, concepts and scholars. We recommend that you keep track of the scholars we use across units and specialist terminology.

## Reactive

This is your 'homework'. Usually this will be making notes for the next lesson, writing about a key theory or evaluation point, or completing an essay/essay plan. It can also involve completing your booklet of practice questions and finishing off any notes from the lesson. If you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work. Your teacher will set you 'reactive' work and you might need to borrow a textbook from H4 and H5 to complete this 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 articles, watching videos, etc which may contain some of the following:

- Use websites (see below) to complete and add to class notes **(30 minutes)**
- Use the specification checklist to evaluate your understanding **(10 mins)**
- "Read, Cover, Write and Check" sections of Knowledge organisers **(30 mins)**
- Complete essay plans. You have an essay planning booklet in your grey folder **(20 minutes)**
- Practice writing timed essays **(40 minutes)**
- Complete a scholar profile for a previous unit you have studied **(20mins)**
- Read a primary text to push your knowledge to an A\* level! Your teacher can recommend what to read **(60 minutes)**
- Listen to a podcast such as the BBC 'In our time' series on something or someone you have studied in class **(60 minutes)**
- Make a page of synoptic links between different units you have studied. Try and draw links between key knowledge and key thinkers **(20 minutes)**

## Useful links

Podcasts: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/598SVYJ2smP8qJlpH29y7Vj/podcasts>

Podcasts: <https://thepanpsycast.com/home>

Model Essays: <https://eitheroressays.com/>

Knowledge: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

Knowledge: <https://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Knowledge: <https://www.britannica.com/>

Revision Clips: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtOLJIWPWAcxFa37iQOUtOA>

TED Talks on religion: <https://www.ted.com/topics/religion>