

## A Level Business Independent Study Time – Use it or lose it

*All those hours in school when you do nothing.....will seem precious in May of Year 13 when you are trying to cram 2 years of work into your brain. Therefore, you need to use Independent study time wisely during year 12 in order to give yourself a decent chance of A Level success.*

Independent study time should be used for two main purposes:

1. Consolidating your understanding of topics covered in the classroom
2. Building a bank of business examples that can be used to illustrate your answers to around 100 marks worth of questions in your A Level that expect you to illustrate your answers using real businesses you have studied

Consolidating your understanding – some activities:

Most revolve around that fat textbook you have.

- Read a chapter or section of the textbook that you are currently studying to deepen your understanding (try to tie up your teacher's explanation with the textbook's explanation)
- Answer the questions at the end of the chapter and hand these to your teacher – you don't 'know' it well enough if you can't answer questions on it
- Look up a topic on [www.tutor2u.net](http://www.tutor2u.net) – you may find a set of notes, or even a video explanation of it
- Re-work classroom activities to see if you can still answer those questions a few days later, or if you can improve your answers to any class questions or homeworks (perhaps indicated by teacher marking)
- Once you have got to half term, its time to regularly re-visit topics that you studied more than 6 weeks ago to ensure you can still remember key issues/formulae/methods/how to answer typical questions

Building a bank of business examples:

The real world is awesome (but sometimes a bit more complex than the classroom). As a minimum, you should:

Read one business news story on [www.bbc.co.uk/news/business](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business) every day. They are brief, topical and pitched at about the right level for you to understand.

In addition, students who want to succeed should try to do the following:

- Start a brief section in your folder in which you summarise your daily readings (what happened, which topics we're studying are relevant)
- Keep a close eye on tv schedules for business programmes that come on. We'll probably only flag them up after they've been on – so catch up is a probable option. Examples range from Greg Wallace going into factories, to specific programmes about an actual business or even investigations into a good or more likely bad thing a business did.
- Watch the start of a decent tv news programme every day – if the headlines include a business story – hang around to watch it
- Probably on catch up via iplayer – bbc business briefing is shown every day at 5.30 am!
- Also at the crack of dawn – but you can listen on your phone, is BC 5live's 'wake up to money'
- Check tutor2u's news blog every couple of days – this chooses stories just for A Level Business students  
[www.tutor2u.net/business/blog](http://www.tutor2u.net/business/blog)

You should also spend a lot of time referring to, referring back to, and checking your progress against...the spec:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/business/specifications/AQA-7131-7132-SP-2015.PDF>

Our plan for the year is this:

September – October

3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3

November – December

3.3.4, 3.5.1, 3.5.2, 3.5.3, 3.5.4

January – February

3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 3.6.1, 3.6.2, 3.6.4

March

3.4.4, 3.4.5, 3.6.3, 3.6.5

April – May

3.2.1, 3.2.2

June onwards

3.7.4, 3.7.5, 3.7.6

Weird numbers refer to different bits of the specification – look ‘em up

We reserve the right to change our minds part way through due to valid educational reasons!