



Study Skills:

Tackling VCE examinations

VCAA website resource:

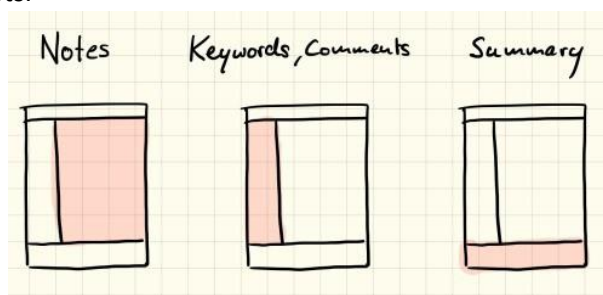
- Useful to use the VCAA website for resources such as study designs and past examinations:
<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

GAT:

- GAT- General Achievement Test -
Wednesday 9 June 2021, 10.00am – 1.15pm
- GAT results provide information in checking that SAC's and external assessments have been accurately assessed.

Notetaking:

- Cornell note taking: Some students like this method and it could be used for study design dot points or concepts.



- Chunk definitions into smaller sections to be remembered then put them on cue cards (Term on one side, definition on the other).
- Your summary notes should:
- give a general overview of the dot point (like a Contents Page)
- Be broken up into Headings, Sub-heading and dot points (no long paragraphs!)
- Include lots of diagrams/pictures/colours to help stimulate your memory
- Use the snip tool to grab pics/diagram from digital books
- With permission take photos of board and annotate
- Indentations in your notes to break chunks of information
- English: Character tables with descriptions, quotes, themes and interpretations and add to them throughout the year. This will really prepare you for your SACs and exam.
- Subjects like physics/maths/chemistry calculations make sure you write eggs

Examination preparation – time management:

- Your diary will help you plan and organise your time.
- Plan what you would like to do
- Record/tick the work you have done.
- Set yourself homework tasks ie revision challenges or a 30 minute revision block
- Set reminders on your phone ie study English tonight so bring home English work.

- Set time limits – it is easy to get stuck on one task/subject and not spend enough time on others. So set time limits and stick to them.
- Ensure you spend an equal amount of time on every subject – regardless of how confident or not you feel for each subject.

Examination preparation – managing distractions

- TV, Computer, Ipad and the Internet
- Electronic devices can be VERY distracting.
- Limit your time on these devices.
- Give yourself set times to use them – schedule in your study timetable ‘device time’ as a reward for studying for some time.
- It doesn’t matter where you study as long as your space is quiet, comfortable and distraction free
 - -clean your desk
 - -only have study support items within reach
 - -try not to move locations each time you study – stay in one spot

Examination preparation:

- Mark the examination period in your diary:
 - Wednesday 27 October 2021 – Wednesday 17 November 2021
- Enter your examinations – time and days into your diary
- Stick an examination timetable on fridge too in case you need to be driven to school
- Create a study timetable - create a day that is very similar to a school day. For example 7 periods each day then schedule 7 periods with the same lunch time/recess etc. Schedule dinner time in. Schedule exercise break – walk/run in the day

Examination preparation – revision strategies

- Summarise notes/ re-write (not type)
- write key terms and examples
- create concept maps of the topic, diagrams/flow charts
- make cue/study cards for terms and include diagrams if need be (this could be done for tests – then use them again for the exam) – then get family/friends to test you
- Use mnemonics such as acronyms or acrostics (FPOT –frontal, parietal, occipital and temporal lobes of the brain), create stories etc
- Test each other
- Write a booklet of questions/answers and swap with friends
- Quiz yourself or ask your parents to quiz you
- Speak aloud and discuss the content
- Re-do past tests/SACs
- Write/plan practise essays- ask your teacher if they will mark them but don’t give them to your teacher the night before the exam....
- Go back to the VCAA website and grab old VCE exams (5-10 see patterns)– ask your teachers if they will mark them
- Trial examination period: If your school has one it is in your best interest to prepare for that and study. It can recreate exams conditions that you cannot do at home- time pressures etc. Help you work out timings in the exam and planning times. It helps you identify gaps in your knowledge and areas you need to focus on

- Term 3-4 School holidays is the time to work hard- revising, finalising notes, practise exams, cue cards.

During examination Tips:

Multiple choice questions are made up of five components:

- scenario – that relates to the question or a summary of facts
 - stem – this part is asking the question
 - Options – the possible solutions
 - Correct response – the option that is correct
 - Distractors- incorrect responses (these can confuse if you do not know the content or recall it correctly)
- Read every option carefully before you make a decision – often the easy questions get answered incorrectly because people rush
 - Do not look for patterns in your answers. The answers are randomly spread throughout and will not necessarily include equal amounts of each alternative.
 - Use the process of elimination. And be clear *why* the other 3 choices are incorrect. So rationalise the response you have chosen.

Tackling short answer and extended questions:

- Use clear and concise language (you can write in point form on science examinations). Write clearly!
- Usually 1 - 2 marks are for definitions (just check if the question is asking for an example)
- Usually 3 or more mark questions require you to
- either provide a definition first then relate to scenario OR
- relate the theory to a scenario (if so ensure you always refer your answer to the scenario don't just give a rote definition. (Use names!).
- The number of marks allocated to the question indicates roughly how many separate points you need to include in your answer

Tackling essay questions:

- Remember the English essays are different to history essays to literature essays so you will need to ensure you know how to write these for the subject – your teacher should be able to provide tips/tricks.
- Practise essay writing beforehand and find synonym for words -so not to repeat yourself when writing in the exam

Final tips:

- Time yourself when studying and during the exam keep an eye on the clock
- Ensure you write neatly – this may impact your result if it is difficult to read your response
- Dangers: Over analysing the question or always finding an exception or waffling cause you just don't know and you are living in hope.
- Use an approach that works best for you, which will become evident when you do practise papers under exam conditions (so M/C first or S/A? Essay 1 or 2 first....)
- Sometimes the simple answers are where you will find your errors so allow some time at the end to check your paper and proof read.

Study - Be prepared – Use all resources at hand – Do your best and move on to the next exam until you have finished all of your exams! GOOD LUCK