

When studying Philosophy A-level, it is important that you not only attend all of your lessons and complete all of your homework, but that you are also doing independent study. We would recommend that you are spending at least 5 hours a week on your independent study. In order for this study to be of maximum benefit it is important that you do a range of different activities, you should be doing some from each of the boxes below. In addition, if you would like to stretch yourself beyond the A-level curriculum then have a look in the super-curricular box for ideas.

Content

One important part of independent study is making sure you have learnt all of the content. Below are some suggestions of things you can do to help learn the content for Philosophy A-level:

- ✓ Review class resources using our [Class Team](#)
- ✓ Read through and add to class notes
- ✓ Condense class notes
- ✓ Highlight/colour code notes
- ✓ Create Quizlets of key content
- ✓ Test yourself using Quizlet
- ✓ Create mind maps
- ✓ Create summary sheets by reducing each key topic to one side of A4
- ✓ Create flash cards with definitions, quotes, or brief points
- ✓ Get someone else to test you (using your flash cards, class notes or the textbook)
- ✓ Use a revision wall to display your learning
- ✓ Read course textbooks and engage with additional reading listed on topic content sheets

Skills

Another important part of independent study is developing the skills to be able to succeed in the exams. Below are some suggestions to help you develop those skills:

- ✓ Practice writing a variety of exam answers (3, 5, 12, and 25 marks) under timed conditions
- ✓ Plan or write out answers to exam questions using your notes/textbook (not timed)
Past exam papers can be found [here](#)
- ✓ Read model answers
- ✓ Buy one of the revision workbooks and complete further exam practice questions

Feedback

The final important part of independent study is getting and using feedback. Feedback allows you to understand what it is you need to do differently next time in order to improve. Below are some ideas about how you can use feedback:

- ✓ Mark your own work using the [philosophy assessment objectives](#)
- ✓ Study mark schemes or examiners reports
- ✓ Work with other students in groups/pairs
- ✓ Compare model answers against your own work
- ✓ Create your own exam questions
- ✓ Hand in extra exam work for marking
- ✓ One to one discussion with your teachers

Super-curricular Philosophy

If you are considering studying Philosophy or a related subject at university, or are just really interested in any of these areas, you could complete some super-curricular activities. These are activities which go beyond what is covered in the curriculum, including things such as watching relevant documentaries, listening to philosophy podcasts, reading relevant news and journal articles and relevant books. Suggested additional reading is given on topic content sheets and for other up to date ideas look at the Philosophy Padlet: [CSF super-curricular: A-level Philosophy \(padlet.com\)](#)