



**Perth Grammar School**

*Pride Respect Ambition*



## **The Senior Phase (S4-S6)**

# **Home Study Expectations 2016-17**

**Information for Parents**

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## **Introduction**

Our aim at Perth Grammar School is to inspire pupils with high quality learning experiences which raise their aspirations and motivate them to achieve their full potential.

Our Home study Policy aims to develop a strong ethos of personal study so that pupils can maximise their learning during their school years and are committed to learning for the rest of their lives.

Consultation with staff, parents and pupils, together with classroom monitoring of learning and teaching, has highlighted the need to improve the consistency of home study across the school.

At Perth Grammar we believe that the 'Power of Three' - pupils, parents and staff working together to support learning - is the best way to improve achievement

## **What is home study?**

Home study is any task or study which a pupil undertakes outwith timetabled classes. What we call home study is not necessarily done at home.

## **The purposes of home study**

These include:

- To allow the practice and consolidation of classwork
- To provide opportunities for individual learning
- To help to assess pupils' progress and mastery of learning
- To provide training in planning and organising time
- To encourage responsibility for learning and the development of good study habits
- To give parents an insight into their children's learning and help them to support and encourage them - a channel for home/school dialogue.

## What home study tasks can my child expect?

Homestudy tasks are diverse. They may be teacher directed tasks or independent study tasks as shown in the table below. There is an expectation that all pupils do some regular home study in each subject. The tasks should be appropriate to the stage and development of the child. More information on the specific expectations of each subject can be found in the section on *Home Study Expectations* below

<i>Directed Study</i>	<i>Independent Study</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research</li><li>• Essay planning/continuation/completion</li><li>• Answering questions, completing exercises in textbooks/from worksheets</li><li>• Directed reading and/or note-taking</li><li>• Learning formulae, vocabulary, factual material</li><li>• Practising techniques/skills learned in class</li><li>• Preparing for the next lesson</li><li>• Preparing presentations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private reading and writing</li><li>• Re-reading texts</li><li>• Organising and re-working notes</li><li>• Learning and revising notes</li><li>• Editing own written work</li><li>• Revising from past papers</li><li>• Working through set internet tasks at own pace</li><li>• Practising essays</li><li>• Using revision materials and techniques</li></ul>
<b>NB</b> Much work bridges both categories	

## How much and how long?

The amount and duration will vary by subject and level. Some subjects will provide small amounts regularly, whereas others will require pupils to carry out considerable research, investigation and drafting, spread over a considerable period of time. There will be a clear, planned increase in volume of home study tasks as pupils progress through the Broad General Education and into the Senior Phase. In the Senior Phase, pupils will notice a considerable difference in what they are required to do as the level of demand of National Qualifications increases. Details of the frequency and nature of home study provided by each department at each level is provided further on in the section on *Home Study Expectations*.

Here is a suggested guide to how much pupils in the Senior Phase should expect to do in a school week:

S4 One hour 30 minutes per day (approximately one hour per subject per week)

S5/6 Two hours per day

## Feedback

As homestudy is an important part of children's learning, the outcomes of homestudy will be reviewed by teachers to inform learning, and children will be given feedback in a variety of ways.

Examples of feedback of homestudy tasks for pupils:

- spot tests/quick quizzes
- going over work with class
- peer marking
- self-checking
- teacher marking of full exercise
- teacher marking a selected paragraph - pupil editing the rest
- discussion in groups/as a class.

## Procedures where home study is incomplete or not done to an appropriate standard

Pupils can gain considerably from the development of good home study habits. For this reason, failure to submit on time or to a high standard must be dealt with. It is important that pupils are encouraged to take responsibility and that parents are kept involved and informed.

Where home study is not completed or is deemed to be sub-standard for that pupil, the procedures outlined below will be followed:

- Step 1 Pupil may be given a second opportunity to submit work the following day.
- Step 2 If not submitted, the class teacher will request that Home Study letter 1 is sent from the Principal Teacher requesting parental support.
- Step 3 If the problem continues, the Principal Teacher will send a second Home Study Letter requesting support. Where appropriate the pupil will attend a supported study session at lunchtime or after school to catch up on work missed.

- Step 4 If this is unsuccessful, Guidance Teacher will contact parents, inviting them to discuss the matter in school.
- Step 5 *All letters are seen by Guidance teachers before they are sent. This enables them to see if there is a pattern of non-completion in more than one subject. In such cases, parents will be contacted by Guidance teachers to discuss and resolve matters.*
- Step 6 In very serious cases, where there is no co-operation and home study continues to be a problem, parents/ carers will be contacted by the Head of House to resolve matters.

## Home Study

## How You Can Help?

## Handy Hints for Parents

- 1 Provide a quiet place for your son or daughter to study.
- 2 Help your son or daughter get into a regular routine for planning and doing home study.
- 3 Talk to them about their skills, strengths & abilities and any area they want to improve.
- 4 Take an interest in their home study. Ask your son or daughter what they have to do, what ideas they have about tackling the work and if there is anything you can do to help. Show an interest in how they got on.
- 5 Read over their home study when it is finished. Ensure it is completed on time and to a standard that reflects your high expectations.
- 6 Please support the school policy when home study is not completed.
- 7 Encourage your child to ask for help and use the support available in school.
- 8 Remember that senior students preparing for exams *always* have revision to do.
- 9 If your child has a job, make sure it does not stop them from getting all their home study done.

## Can pupils complete home study tasks in school?

Yes! Many departments run study support classes at lunchtime or after school. Information on classes offered can be found on the school website at this link: <http://www.perthgrammar.org.uk/Pupils/Supported-Study/>

Senior pupils can do home study tasks if they have study periods either in the library, their area of the dining centre or by arrangement with a teacher or department. In addition, the school library is open for study from 3.35 - 4.45pm Monday - Wednesday.

## Additional home study resources

There are many excellent resources available to support home study both in print and online. Some of these are listed below and these can also be accessed from the school website: [www.perthgrammar.org.uk/pupils/supported-study](http://www.perthgrammar.org.uk/pupils/supported-study). Subject departments have a wide range of study resources and particular websites that they will recommend to pupils.

1. **Parentzone** is the official government website which aims to develop partnerships between parents and schools in Scotland. This link gives information about Supporting Learning at Home as well as Resources for Parents and the latest news on developments within Scottish Education: <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome/index.asp>  
This link provides specific information on preparing for assessments and exams and has further links to more support: <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome/helpingprepareforexams/prepare.asp>
2. The **National Parent Forum for Scotland** has recently developed an excellent set of "In A Nutshell" resources designed to support with preparation and revision for new national qualifications:  
Nationals in a Nutshell: <http://www.npfs.org.uk/nationals-in-a-nutshell/>  
Highers in a Nutshell: <http://www.npfs.org.uk/highers-in-a-nutshell/>  
Revision in a Nutshell: <http://www.npfs.org.uk/national-5-revision-in-a-nutshell/>
3. **Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA)**: the SQA is responsible for devising and developing qualifications in Scotland. Within the 'school learner' tab there are new resources including a series of Study Guides as well as past papers.  
Study Guides: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70986.html>  
Past Papers: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/68910.html>
4. **BBC Bitesize** has a well-established reputation for high quality revision and study materials:  
National 4: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/zp3d7ty>  
National 5: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z6gw2hv>  
Higher: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/zkdqxb>

5. **School A-Z** is an Australian education website designed for parents which includes helpful tips on helping your child to become more effective in their home study: [www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study)

**If you have any concerns regarding your child's home study, please do not hesitate to contact the school:**

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PERTH  
PH1 3SG

Tel: 01738 472800

Email: [perthgrammar@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:perthgrammar@pkc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.perthgrammar.org.uk](http://www.perthgrammar.org.uk)



## Section 2 - Home Study Expectations

Subject	Year Group/ Stage/ Level	Type of task	Frequency	Time required for completion
English	Advanced higher	Reading over set texts and notes. Ongoing writing of dissertation and reading of literary criticism texts.	Every week/ongoing	Approximately one hour, increasing towards end of course
	Higher	Reading over set texts and notes. Writing for folio. Critical Essay writing. Close Reading questions.	Every week/ongoing	Approximately one hour, increasing towards end of course
	National 5	Reading over set texts and notes. Writing for folio. Critical Essay writing. Close Reading questions. Preparing for Talk assessment - research	Every week/ongoing	Approximately one hour, increasing towards end of course
	National 4	Reading newspapers, books to improve vocabulary. Redraft of writing tasks. Preparing for Talk assessment – research.	Every two weeks	Approximately 30 mins - 1 hour until completion of course

### Modern Languages

French	Advanced Higher	Reading, Writing and translation work, related to topic being studied. Preparation of short essays at the end of topics. Reading of set text and independent research for portfolio. Learning of vocabulary and grammar notes and preparation for Unit Assessments.	Ongoing	3 hours a week
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French / Spanish	Higher	Reading, Writing and translation work, related to topic being studied. Preparation of short essays at the end of main topics. Learning of vocabulary and grammar notes and preparation for Unit Assessments.	Once/ Twice a week	2 hours a week
	National 5	Reading and Writing work. Learning of vocabulary and grammar notes and preparation for Unit Assessments.	Once/ Twice a week	1 hour a week
French / Spanish	National 4	One piece of Reading or Writing work a week. <b>and/or</b> Going over / learning of new vocabulary and grammar covered in class and preparation for Unit Assessments.	Once a week	20 mins for written piece <b>and/or</b> 20 mins for learning of vocab

## Maths

<i>Maths</i>	N4 Lifeskills	Questions on current topics and revision of earlier topics	WEEKLY/FORTNIGHTLY	30MINS - 1HOUR
	N5 Lifeskills	Questions on current topics and revision of earlier topics	WEEKLY	APPROX 1 HOUR
	N4 MATHS	Questions on current topics and revision of earlier topics	WEEKLY/FORTNIGHTLY	30MINS - 1HOUR
	N5 MATHS	Questions on current topics and revision of earlier topics	WEEKLY	APPROX 1 HOUR
	H	Questions on current topics and revision of earlier topics	WEEKLY	UP TO 2 HOURS
	AH	Questions on current topics and revision of earlier topics	WEEKLY	UP TO 3 HOURS

	AH (Statistics)	Questions on current topics and revision of earlier topics	WEEKLY	UP TO 3 HOURS
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## Computing

Computing	Higher	Focused reading and questions/past paper and questions	Every week	1 hour maximum, increases towards exam time
	National 5	Background reading and questions/past paper questions	Every week	1 hour maximum, increases towards exam time

## Science

<b>Biology</b>	N5	Learning, research, questions, past papers, essays, summary notes.	Weekly	Approx 40 mins, increasing towards exam time
	Higher	Learning, research, questions, past papers, essays, summary notes.	Up to twice weekly	Around 1 hour, increases towards exam time
	Advanced higher	Learning research, questions, past papers, essays, summary notes.	Weekly	Around 1 hour, increases towards exam time
<b>Physics</b>	N5	Learning, research, questions, past papers.	Every 2 weeks	Approx 40 mins, increasing towards exam time
	Higher	Learning, research, questions, past papers	Every 2 weeks	Around 2 hours, increases towards exam time
	Advanced higher	Learning, research, questions, past papers	Every 2 weeks	Around 2 hours, increases towards exam time
<b>Chemistry</b>	N5	Learning, research, questions, past papers	Weekly	Approx 40 mins, increases towards exam time
	Higher	Learning, research, questions, past papers	Weekly	Around 1 hour, increases towards exam time

	Advanced higher	Learning, research, questions, past papers	When appropriate	Around 1 hour, increases towards exam time
<b>Psychology</b>	N5	Learning, research, questions, past papers, essays, summary notes.	Every two weeks	Approx 40 mins, increasing towards exam time

## Social Subjects

Geography	National 5	Completion of questions related to the topics being studied. Revision of coursework to reinforce knowledge. Past paper questions.	Fortnightly	30-60 minutes
	Higher	Past Paper style questions. Revision of coursework to reinforce knowledge.	Weekly	2 hours
	Adv Higher	Tutor Assignments Map Assignment Issues and study for portfolio	Fortnightly Once Weekly	1 hour 4 hours 2 hours
History	Higher	Essay writing	Weekly	2 hours
	Nat 5	Written questions	Weekly until added value work begins	30 minutes
	Nat 4	Mixed pieces	Where required	30 minutes
Modern Studies	National 5	Extended response questions Either KU or Skills questions. Investigation and write up of assignment	Fortnightly	30 mins
	Higher	Revision of KU for weekly timed essays/essay writing skills Essay writing and skills questions	Weekly	varies
Politics	Higher	Revision of KU for weekly timed essays/essay writing skills Essay writing and skills questions	Weekly	varies
RMPS	Nat 5 S3/S4	Revision and tasks completed	Weekly	1 hour

	Higher	Research and write up of assignment	Weekly	2 hrs
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## Technology

Engineering Science	Higher/National 5	<b>Reinforcing</b> Teacher Set Tutorial	1 hour per topic Weekly	1 hour
		<b>Embedding</b> Electronic Control Using Curricular Software Picaxe & Yenka (free for pupils).	2 hours per week	2 hours
		<b>Reading back</b> over theories, concepts and terminology.	20 mins daily	2 hours 20 mins
		Creation of <b>personally summarised</b> notes and	March till May	45 hours
		A completed bank of past paper question responses.	30 mins daily	30 mins
Graphic Communication	Higher	Reinforced learning of course work. Completion of exam type questions.	Weekly	30-60 minutes
Practical woodwork	Nat 4	Log book of work completed	After each practical class	
Practical woodwork	Nat 5	Log book of work completed	After each practical class	
Design and Manufacture	Higher	Completion of exam style questions. Reinforce learning of course work.	weekly	30-60 minutes
Health and Food Technology	Higher/National 4/5	Completion of questions related to the topics being studied. Revision of coursework to reinforce knowledge. Researching relevant topics related to health and diet using the media.	Weekly	30-60 minutes

## Business Education

Administration and IT	Higher	Completion of exam style questions to reinforce knowledge and improve on the use of the command words. Preparation for unit assessments and class tests.	Weekly	45 minutes
	National 4/5	Preparation for unit assessments with a KU element.	When required	30 minutes
Business Management	Higher	Extended Response Questions; regular reading of course content and business news; preparation for unit assessments; preparation for Business Assignment	Weekly/Fortnightly	30-60 minutes
Business/Business Management	National 4/5	Completion of home study exercises; preparation for unit assessments; preparation for Business Assignment (National 5)	Weekly/Fortnightly	30-60 minutes

## Art & Design

Art and Design	National 4	Practical folio work for Design and Expressive units.	weekly	30 mins
		Written tasks looking at Artists and Designers.	weekly	30 mins

	National 5/Higher	Written revision tasks for Art and Design Studies	varies - Issued from term 2	1 hour
		Practical folio work for Design and Expressive units.	weekly	2 hours

## Expressive Arts - Music

Music	National 4	Performing - practice 2x instruments. Composing - complete set home study tasks. Understanding Music - review of concepts taught in class	Performing – when possible. Understanding music - once a week	Performing – when possible. Composing - as set. Understanding music - once a week.
	National 5	Performing - practice 2x instruments. Composing - complete set home study tasks. Understanding Music - review of concepts taught in class	Performing – when possible. Composing - as set. Understanding music - once a week	Performing – when possible. Composing - as set. Understanding music - once a week
	Higher	Performing - practice 2x instruments'. Composing - complete set home study tasks. Understanding Music - review of concepts taught in class	Performing – when possible. Composing - as set. Understanding music - once a week	Performing – when possible. Composing - as set. Understanding music - once a week

	Advanced Higher	Performing - practice 2x instruments. Composing - complete set home study tasks. Understanding Music - review of concepts taught in class	Performing – when possible. Composing - as set. Understanding music - once a week	Performing – when possible. Composing - as set. Understanding music - once a week
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## Expressive Arts – Drama

Drama	National 4	Tasks vary to include Social & Historical research, learning lines, script writing, character development, design work & rehearsal logs. Learning and revising drama terminology.	The practical work generates the written/design tasks and so homework will vary to reflect the unit of work but is likely to be termly.	
	National 5	Tasks vary to include Social & Historical research, learning lines, script writing, character development, design work & rehearsal logs. Learning and revising drama terminology.	The practical work generates the written/design tasks and so homework will vary to reflect the unit of work but is likely to be termly. Tasks then as set.	
	Higher	Tasks vary to include Social & Historical research, learning lines, script writing, character development, design work & rehearsal logs. Learning and revising drama terminology. Textual & performance analysis.	The practical work generates the written/design tasks and so homework will vary to reflect the unit of work but is likely to be termly initially. Tasks then as set.	



		Evaluation of theatre visit.		
	Advanced Higher	Tasks vary to include Research and exploration of Theatre Practitioners, Social & Historical research, learning lines, script writing, character development, design work & rehearsal logs. Learning and revising drama terminology. Textual & performance analysis. Evaluation of theatre work.	The practical work generates the written/design tasks and so homework will vary to reflect the unit of work but is likely to be termly initially. Tasks then as set.	

## PE

PE	Nat 5	Tasks will vary between the four studied areas : Mental, Social, Emotional and Physical. Each task will be appropriate to the activities covered and will most likely involve some research in to training and performance development.	Weekly	20 minutes
	Higher	Tasks will vary between the four studied areas: Mental, Social, Emotional and Physical. Each task will be appropriate to the activities covered and will most likely involve some research in to training and performance development. Answers to the tasks are expected to be detailed and in essay format.	Weekly	30-45 minutes

