

Homework - a guide for students and parents/carers

Have you got any homework?

Homework can be very confusing for students and parents/carers. The following guide will hopefully clarify some of those uncertainties.

Homework has three parts to it:

- **Set Homework** - work that is given during a lesson, usually based on current learning, and expected to be completed for the next scheduled lesson
- **Revision** - the active re-engagement with what you have learned during each lesson. This can involve a number of strategies or approaches. For example, some students have a separate exercise book at home for each subject. At the end of the day they briefly record what they have learned in each lesson including formulae in Maths, for example. This not only helps them to revise and determine questions they may need to ask next lesson, but also prepares revision notes for upcoming tests and exams
- **Assessment Preparation** - this is the process of checking the Student Assessment Planner to determine the nature and due dates of upcoming assessment and, where time permits, students may commence planning, research and preparing an overview of what the task involves. Where students already have the task/criteria sheet for a subject, the preparation may be more specific including familiarising themselves with the genre and content of the task and all that they involve. It is also important that students familiarise themselves with all criteria for an assessment item, and their elaborations, to facilitate self-checking and feedback during the drafting process

Homework time will not always be an even balance of all three components but we should certainly never see a case of 'I've got no homework' just because there was none officially set! Set homework is only ONE aspect of the homework process.

At Centenary Heights State High School we value homework as an integral part of learning and, to that end, it will always be checked by our teachers.

Starting your homework...

The first step in the homework process is to determine what is set homework. This should be recorded in your student diary and may include anything you might not have finished from previous days.

Your diary entries could look something like this:

Subject	Details	Complete
Maths	Area Ex. Page 204 Nos 1 - 3 all parts	X

As you complete your homework you should mark it off as complete or indicate that you have had some difficulties. Questions should be clearly recorded so you remember to seek assistance next lesson.

Once you have completed the set homework you can move to the revision phase. For each subject you have had that day record the key learning goals and any critical information that may go with these. For example:

English	24th April	Learning Goal	Key Information
		Features of a sonnet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 types (Shakespearean, Spenserian, Petrarchan) • 14 lines • Regular rhyme scheme (depends on type) • Usually iambic pentameter (rhythm)

As you do this, record any questions you might have that relate to your understanding of knowledge and concepts that have been taught.

Once the revision stage is complete, find your assessment planner and look for the next assessment piece due. Once you have determined this you could use the following approach:

Subject	Task	Due Date	What do I Know	What do I need to know?
English	Narrative for Gaps and Silences based on novel	26th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My novel • What Gaps and Silences are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task specifications • What characteristics does an effective narrative have?

If you do not yet have the task sheet you could still do research into the features of an effective narrative and make notes accordingly. For example you could use the internet to search the characteristics of a narrative and record your findings as follows:

Characteristics	Structural and/or Language Implications	Notes
Features the human element	Language may be descriptive and emotive May be written in the first or third person	How can I link this to the language and structural style of the novel? Who will be the narrator?
Leads the reader to discovery through description	May use punctuation and grammar informally Tells a story	Might need a Thesaurus for colour and variety

A guide to the amount of time to spend on homework and study is as follows:

Year 7

45 minutes, including reading - 4 nights a week, and where needed, an hour on the weekend.

Year 8

1 hour - 4 nights a week, and where needed, an hour on the weekend.

Year 9

1 hour - 4 nights a week, and where needed, an hour on the weekend.

Years 10, 11 and 12

2.5 hours - 3 hours 4 nights a week, and where needed, more on the weekend.