



5 hours in... Computer Science A Level Y12

Research shows that the most successful students (i.e. those that make the most progress and get the highest grades) are doing between 20 and 25 hours of independent study per week by the end of Year 13. That may seem a lot, but it's something that you would build up to over the course of your A-Levels. In Year 12, we're talking something more like 15 hours per week. This equates to roughly 5 hours of independent study per A-Level per subject.

Remember that your independent study is divided into three types – **Consolidation, Reactive and Proactive**. How this is divided may vary from week to week or between subjects but one approach could be:

Consolidation - 45mins

Straight after a lesson, or that evening / the following day you should reread your notes, talk a topic through with somebody, write summaries, mindmaps, flashcards e.g. for equations, definitions, facts you need to recall etc.

- Rewatch the Craig'n'Dave video(s) - listed in the Team lesson assignment
- Read the relevant pages in the textbook - listed in the Team lesson assignment
- If needed, finish completing the Notebook page of the lesson - distributed by the teacher in your Class Notebook
- Go back over any code that you wrote and add comments if needed

Reactive – 3hrs

This is your 'homework'. Each of your teachers should give you at least 1 hours' worth of homework each week. This could be linked to upcoming exams, preparation work for coursework or coursework that is currently being completed.

Prepare for next lesson by

- Completing any homework (and any other tasks) set via Teams and handing it in
- Watching the Craig'n'Dave video(s) listed
- Reading the relevant pages in your textbook
- Taking notes as explained in the first lesson (keywords, concepts, definitions, RAG your understanding of that part of the OCR A Level specification)

If you find this takes more than 3 hours, that's fine, you can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work.

Proactive – 1hr 15mins

This is the section that will broaden and deepen your overall understanding of the subject you are studying. It will not necessarily involve work that has been set by your teacher, but instead it is about you doing the extra practice questions, reading articles, watching videos, TED talks etc.

- In the [OCR PG Book](#), complete a set of exercises related to the topic covered in the lesson (pages of the book will be in the lesson assignment) (1 hour)
- Read the [PMT Advanced Notes](#) for the SLR you are currently studying
- Develop your coding skills through attempting challenges in the coding challenges booklet
- Use technical websites such as <https://slashdot.org> or <https://www.theregister.co.uk> to further your understanding of current issues in Computer Science

Useful links

[Isaac Computer Science OCR A Level](#)