



5 hours in...Music Technology

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, mind maps, flashcards e.g. for equations, definitions, facts you need to recall etc. Most 'theory' based lessons that are undertaken will have several video, audio or documents attached to them for further reading and consolidation that are available on the powerpoints, on the teams page. You each have a double lesson per week, outside of lessons times, booked to be in the studio. Use this time to practice, experiment and consolidate your practice skills in the studio.

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. This could include work on historic elements of music technology, theoretic and scientific terminology, development of technology and the application of these things since 1940. Often this will be exam style questions, other times it may be revision materials that need to be completed.

If you find this takes more than 1 hour, 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 Music Technology, this might contain some of the following:

- Complete focussed listening logs, available on the teams page, to help prepare for the C3 exam.
- Use the specification checklist or revision books and guides to evaluate your understanding
- Answer questions from your revision guide (30 mins)
- Creation of knowledge organisers
- "Read, Cover, Write and Check" sections of Knowledge organisers
- Watch a video clips on relevant topics (styles, historic, development of technology etc)

Useful links

Youtube channels



Why Logic Pro Rules

113K subscribers



That Logic Pro Guy

2.26K subscribers



MusionicX: Music Technology Foundations

1.61K subscribers



Music Tech Student

1.24K subscribers