



5 hours in...Music

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. Focussing on the set works for either Jazz, Music theatre or the classical pieces you are learning at Hardenhuish would be a priority. Annotating scores, listening to the pieces and creating effective revision resources would be good starting points.

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 exam preparation through the producing of essays or short mark question practice. You are also expected to be completing your compositions and performances where possible. Please ensure that you utilise the music department and the equipment to do this

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, this might contain some of the following:

- Listening to pieces from the classical, jazz and music theatre genres from our set composers and making notes comparing to our set works (e.g. Duke Ellington pieces, are they similar to what we've studied – if so how?)
- Use the specification checklist or revision books and guides to evaluate your understanding
- Answer questions from your revision guide
- Watch a video clips on relevant topics (styles, composers)
- Practice both rhythmic and melodic dictation exercises.

Useful links

Youtube channels



Aural Skills Guru
10K subscribers



Berklee Online ✓
296K subscribers



London Symphony Orchestra 🎵
240K subscribers
