



5 hours in... Philosophy and Ethics (RS)

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. definitions, facts you need to recall, info on key thinkers and quotes etc.

Reactive – 3hrs

This is your 'homework'. Each of your teachers should give you approximately 1 hours' worth of homework each week. This could be linked to upcoming exams or assessments. This could include work answering questions from the booklets that you may be given in each module, planning or writing practice essays, research tasks and pre-learning.

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 Philosophy and Ethics (RS) this might contain some of the following:
- Complete a set of practice past paper questions – [click here](#) (1 hour)
- Use Seneca Learning to complete and add to class notes (30 minutes) [Course: Religious Studies: OCR A Level](#)
- Use the specification checklist or assignment brief to evaluate your understanding (10 mins) - download your own copy of each of these.

[Philosophy](#)

[Ethics](#)

[Developments in Christian Thought](#)

- Answer questions from your revision guide (30 mins) (See KXJ or MSW to borrow if needed)
- Creation of knowledge organisers (1 hour)
- "Read, Cover, Write and Check" sections of Knowledge organisers (30 mins)
- Listen to a podcast (1 hour) also available on Spotify [Philosophy Bites](#) or [Panpsycast](#)
- Watch a Philosophy video on Youtube (20 mins) [Crash Course Philosophy](#) or [Philosophy Tube](#)
- Watch a revision video on Youtube (40 mins) [Ben Wardle](#) or [I Think Therefore I Teach](#)

Useful links for notes

<https://alevelphilosophyandreligion.com/ocr-religious-studies/>

<https://philosophyalevel.com/ocr-religious-studies-revision-notes/>

<https://laurenrevisesphilosophy.wordpress.com/>