

**History and Politics Department**

**50:50 Help and Advice**

Key to your success whilst studying in the History and Politics Department is the level of effort and work you put into your subjects outside of lessons. The college’s expectation is that you match every hour of class time with an hour of independent study – **50:50**. This will include completing **structured homework** tasks set by your teachers but will also require you to **work independently**; finding ways to consolidate and extend your understanding. To help you to do this, the list below gives some ideas or activities to consider each week.

**Revision *(Suggested time = 1 hour per week)***

It is never too early to start the process of revision, particularly if you are on a linear A-Level course. Go back to topics and lesson materials you completed earlier in the year and start to produce revision notes e.g. flashcards, mind-maps, typed notes, glossaries, key-dates timelines etc.. Starting your revision early will make it much easier when you come to revise for your end of year or final exams fully.

**Watch a documentary *(Suggested time = 45 minutes per week)***

Estream has a wide selection of History, Ancient History and Politics documentaries which support your courses or extend your understanding. You may often find yourself watching part of a documentary in class and can then also finish this off at home. Make sure that you are ‘actively’ watching e.g. create a basic spider-diagram with the issue you are investigating in the middle and then record brief notes around it.

**Listen to a MASSOLIT LEcture *(Suggested time = 15 minutes per week)***

Using the list of relevant lectures on Godalming Online, listen to a lecture from the website [www.massolit.io](http://www.massolit.io). This is a collection of lecture courses from leading academics on a range of History topics. As you listen, treat the lecture like an article – draw up a set of sub-headings or questions and take detailed notes under these. Help logging on can be found on the History and ILC pages of Godalming Online.

**Past-Question practice *(Suggested time = 1.5 hours per week)***

Use the selection of past questions from the department’s Godalming Online pages (or straight from the exam board: History and Ancient History = OCR; Politics = Edexcel) to practice structuring and writing exam-style answers. Once you have chosen a question revise its contents by going over your notes, prepare a detailed plan, and then write it under timed conditions. You can then bring this to one of the weekly support sessions to get feedback.

**Read an Extension article/chapter *(Suggested time = 1-2 hours per week)***

Log on to History Today, Modern History Review, Politics Review or Dawsonera and find an article or chapter that supports what you have been doing in class - reading lists are provided for each course to help you choose. Print out the article, create a set of sub-headings and then take detailed notes. Help with logging on to all of these websites can be found on the ILC’s page of Godalming Online under ‘Websites, Links, Subscriptions’.

**Consolidate your weekly work *(Suggested time = 1.5 hours per week)***

Go over your lesson materials and handouts from that week making sure that all activities have been finished in detail. If you have been reading articles or sources, go over these highlighting key points and adding annotations to the margins. When you have looked at a new concept or period, produce a simple mind-map to summarise the key information ready for future revision.















