

Exam Preparation

What to Do and What Not to Do!

External Exams are One Shot opportunities so you have to prepare yourself the best that you can. Teachers and parents go on about revision and study, not because they like to hassle you, but in an effort so that you do the best that you can. It is a competitive world, just like on a sports field and if you are under-prepared (read 'unfit') you will not do very well.

Here are some sheets with some very useful and important hints and guidelines for you to use.

- Be proactive in your learning and think that you can, and will achieve the NCEA, rather than say "It is too hard" and "What is the point of this particular standard?"
- Have you organised your folders?
Put all the Internal Standards work at the back. You don't need that for the exams. Take an afternoon in front of the tv and sort your folder out.
- Put all the topics in order. For example, put your novel notes altogether.
- Find your last exam papers and reread them. Can you see where you went well and where you need to write more?
- Did you write enough? Remember the reference to a Big Mac rather than a Cheeseburger as your answer? Which one is more satisfying?

- Make up a timetable for revision and vary your subjects. Don't try to do too many subjects in any one day. Two subjects per day would be sensible. Give yourself a time period of say an hour before you have a break.
- Find somewhere quiet. Music in the background is fine if that suits you. Have everything organised so you do not have to get up and get something. This just gives you a chance to be distracted and off the task of revising!
- Actually write down notes. Test yourself. At the start list down the key points on your topic, then go and read through your notes and write down the points you didn't jot down at the start. This is the information you have to learn to put into your long-term memory.
- Find out the sort of questions you will be asked to write on in the exam. Ask your teacher, or look at the last exam you did.
- Now read the following handouts and see how much you know already and find out the areas you need to build on.
- Remember there are no Achievement Standards in Play Station or Xbox, partying or skateboarding!

GO FOR IT!