

Independent Learning and Homework in Secondary School

Parent:
Do you have homework?

Teen:
No

Parent:
You should have some homework...

Teen:
IDK. I didn't get any

Narrator:
Both the parent and teen are right!
Homework becomes independent learning in secondary school.

In secondary school, our students are no longer given "homework" every lesson by each of their teachers, instead they are expected to undertake Independent Learning.

So, what's the difference?

Homework is a set amount of work to be completed by a student in a set time. This is usually to consolidate what has been learned in class prior to the homework being given. It can also be practice and revision for assessment.

Homework = Set Tasks

Independent Learning can be made up of:

- Completing assessment in sections ready to be handed in by the draft and final due dates and amending assessment based on feedback given
- Specific tasks from the teacher e.g. complete exercise 6a
- Developing study notes for exams from their work in Teams and OneNote
- Reading over notes from Teams and OneNote before and after lessons
- Practice drills and revision in their class notebooks
- Reading of prescribed texts and other books/journals
- Additional activities in complementary curriculum programs such as Education Perfect
- Consolidating and extension work from video and activity links in Teams

Independent Learning is a set amount of time throughout the week given to complete consolidating tasks, review work, peruse content prior to learning in class, work on assessment and extend learning.

Independent Learning = Set Time

Recommended Times:

- Year 7 - 4-5 hours per week
- Year 8 - 5-6 hours per week
- Year 9 - 6-7 hours per week
- Year 10 - 7+ hours per week

Students and their families need to allocate their recommended times to fit both assessment and task due dates, as well as family and other commitments. This helps to set your teen up for success in the senior years of schooling, where prioritising tasks is vital.

Homework Club at Trinity College runs Monday to Thursday from 3pm to 5pm. With tutors on-site, this is the perfect opportunity for Independent Learning time to take place.



Where should my teen start?

The Independent Learning task list above is in order of importance. Assessment should always be given the highest priority. Followed by specific tasks from their classroom teacher, consolidation, revision, reading and extension.

How can I help my teen?

This is a time for your teen to explore what they can do independently. If they are having difficulties, assist them to find avenues to get help. Refer them to the programs listed above and encourage them to reach out to their teacher via Teams or email.



It doesn't seem to be enough time?

If after completing assessment, there is not enough time to complete the set work, reach out to the teacher to advise them of where they got up to when the time ran out. It is best if your teen learns to do this themselves to build their confidence and positive relationship with their teacher. The teacher will either adjust, check or reassign the task at another time.

Change your questioning...

Parent:
What will you be doing in your independent learning time today?

Teen:
History Essay and Maths Questions

