

Independent Learning in A Level Physics



After each lesson, in addition to completing any set work, a pro-active, independent learner would...

- Ensure that notes are completed and filed suitably in a folder.
- Read the relevant textbook chapter and annotate lesson notes with additional, relevant content.
- Make a list of things not fully understood and discuss with a peer or a teacher before the next lesson.
- Try to summarise the content of the lesson in note or diagrammatic format to diagnose lack of understanding.
- Try to commit factual information to memory immediately, rather than leaving it until revision.
- Match the content of the specification against lesson notes/content to ensure that all points are covered.
- Maintain a list of learning points from reviewed/marked work and regularly review this list.
- Seek out additional sources of questions on areas of weakness or where mistakes were made in classwork, homework or a test. For important pieces of work, diagnose mistakes as active mistakes, slip-ups and blackouts.

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Resources to help you study

Most key resources, such as the specification for your course, data sheet, past papers, etc. can be found in Handouts\A-level Physics. Some additional resources to help you are as follows:

	Resource	Comment
Online	Particle Adventure (http://www.particleadventure.org/)	Amazing, but just for particle physics of course!
	Khan Academy (https://www.khanacademy.org/)	Can help with difficult concepts.
	Physicsandmathstutor (http://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/)	Great one-stop-shop for past papers.
	PhET simulations (https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/category/physics)	Can really help visualise processes. Most simulations are interactive and you can see the effect of changing variables.
	A-level Physics on-line (www.alevelphysicsonline.com)	Good place to get another view.
	Hyperphysics (http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/)	'No frills' format, but spot-on physics – good for chasing the A*.
Printed	Collins Advanced Physics Aka "Dobson"	The Physics Bible! If you really want to get stuck in, ask your teacher to lend you a copy.
	Heinemann Advanced Physics	Simply an alternative to Dobson.

And don't forget to keep an eye-out for lunchtime Revision & help sessions throughout most of the year.