



YEAR 12

How to make the most of it



MEETING DEADLINES

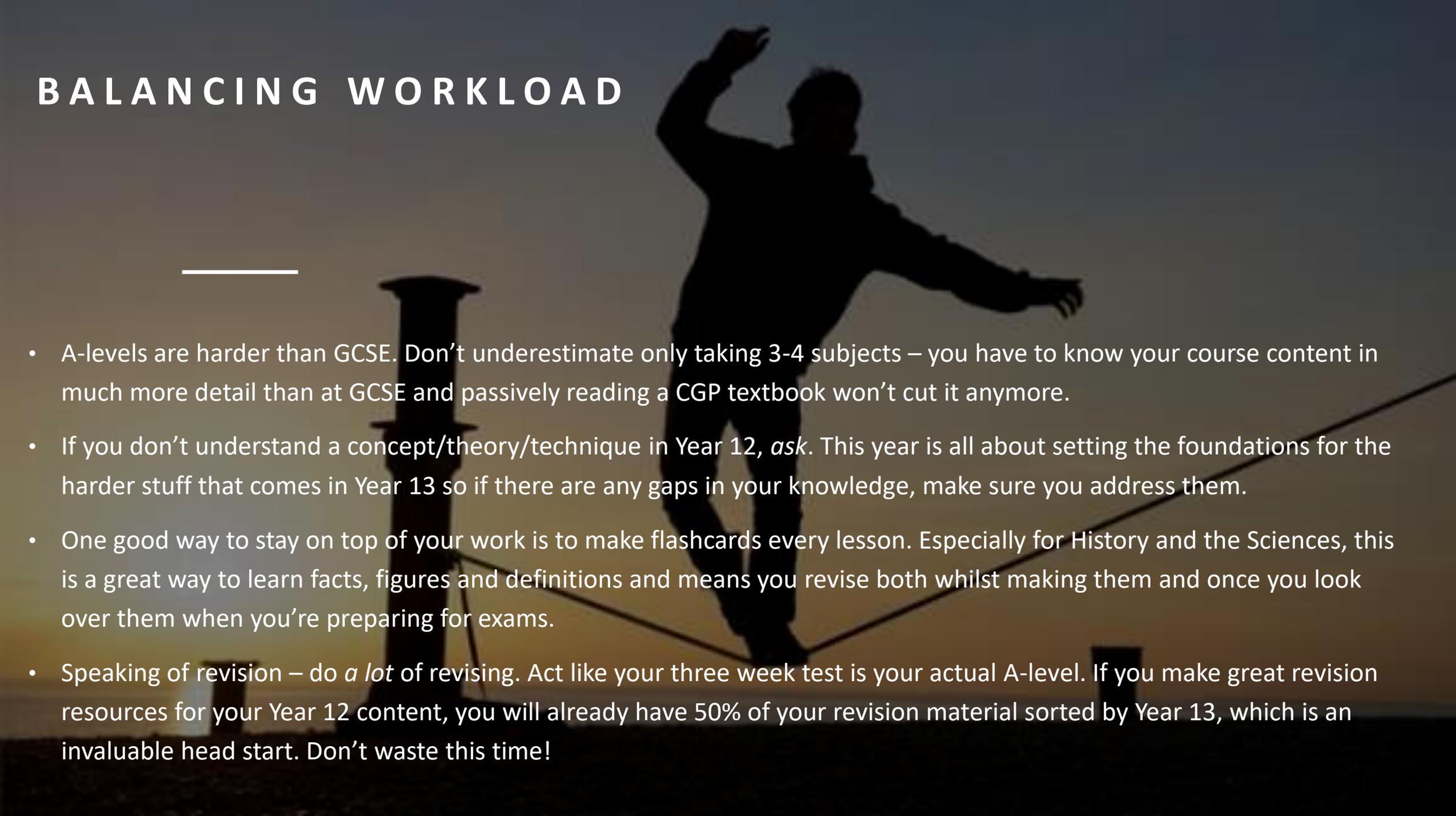
The harder you work in Year 12, the easier you'll have it in Year 13 so when you're set a deadline, stick to it!

Whether you're planning your EPQ, English coursework, or even your Personal Statement, make sure you have *something* down – the hardest part is always knowing how to start.

Don't waste research time! Looking for information about potential EPQ topic ideas, university courses or coursework texts is always valuable and the more thorough your research is, the better you'll spend the time writing it up.

Don't waste your free periods. As tempting as it is to sit in the common room and chat, work will quickly pile on top of you if you don't use at least half of your frees to study.

BALANCING WORKLOAD

A silhouette of a person walking a tightrope against a sunset background. The person is in a balancing pose, with one arm raised and the other extended outwards. The tightrope is stretched between two dark, cylindrical posts. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of focus and balance.

-
- A-levels are harder than GCSE. Don't underestimate only taking 3-4 subjects – you have to know your course content in much more detail than at GCSE and passively reading a CGP textbook won't cut it anymore.
 - If you don't understand a concept/theory/technique in Year 12, *ask*. This year is all about setting the foundations for the harder stuff that comes in Year 13 so if there are any gaps in your knowledge, make sure you address them.
 - One good way to stay on top of your work is to make flashcards every lesson. Especially for History and the Sciences, this is a great way to learn facts, figures and definitions and means you revise both whilst making them and once you look over them when you're preparing for exams.
 - Speaking of revision – do *a lot* of revising. Act like your three week test is your actual A-level. If you make great revision resources for your Year 12 content, you will already have 50% of your revision material sorted by Year 13, which is an invaluable head start. Don't waste this time!

▸ My tips for Year 12

- Work in frees – kills time and means less work at home.
- Mix beyond your friend group - make new mates in lessons and welcome students from other schools. Also remember to welcome the boarders.
- Start your EPQ as early as possible – leaving it late is very stressful and a lot of work. Don't leave starting it past April at the latest and think about possible topics now. Also do the logbook as you go along, it's tedious completing it all at the end.

▸ More tips....

- Get involved with extra-curricular activities – will help with your relationship with your teachers which is very important at A Level – especially now with predicted grades and uncertain exams (shows dedication).
- Helping with CCF and participating in DofE is great for your UCAS statement.
- Hit all your deadlines because work will catch up to you from other subjects
- Get coursework done as soon as possible.

Organisation

- ▶ Staying on top of your work by meeting deadlines and create a topic tracker
- ▶ Creating folders and clear organisation of topics
- ▶ Making sure you bring appropriate equipment and work for the lesson ahead
- ▶ Turn up on time for lessons with the right attitude to learn

Active participation

- ▶ There are many activities that you can get involved in at Liverpool College such as Rugby, hockey, choir, orchestra and Arts clubs. I would highly recommend trying every activity you can, even if it is just once, as Liverpool College promotes the idea of ‘not only the intellect but also the character’
- ▶ It allows you to create new friendships outside your usual social group with people you may have never got know as well without participating in activities
- ▶ You may discover a new passion joining an activity when joining an activity group

EPQ

- ▶ EPQ is a great way to receive a reduced university offer, as some universities take this into account when handing out offers
- ▶ The independent working prepares you for the style of work that will take place in university, it also gives you a great opportunity to study and research a topic that you are interested in
- ▶ I would suggest picking a topic that links to the course you want to do at university as this will look good on your personal statement and give you a bit of background knowledge on the course

YEAR 12 ADVICE-EPQ

- Pick a topic that relates to the course you want to do in University. (helps with writing personal statement)
- Start researching early (October time)
- Don't worry about starting to write the essay until you have a good understanding of your topic.
- Make sure you stay on topic and answer the question title.
- If you can't decide on a topic think about the year 12 content you've found most interesting and build upon it.
- Don't forget about the logbook- it's a lot longer than you think it'll be and you get quite a lot of marks for presenting a good logbook.

YEAR 12 ADVICE

-ORGANISATION AND WORKING TO DEADLINES

- Use your frees (especially around exams)
- Don't leave everything to late at night!
- Day folder

- Write your notes when you finish each topic- don't leave it all to exam season

YEAR 12 ADVICE

- PREPARING FOR YOUR UCAS APPLICATION

- If you can't decide which course you want to study at University, read articles about a few different interests and this will help you realise which subject you enjoy the most.
- Start as early as you can
- Read books!!!
- Independent research
- 'Supercurricular' activities- going further than your A-Level syllabus.
- Link lots of different sources together (eg I watched this lecture which interested me so I went on to read this book/ watch this film, etc)

- Online lectures, books, podcasts, etc
- Keep a list of anything you do that can go on your UCAS application so you don't forget by the time you get to writing it
- Top universities look for 80% writing about subject interest- why you want to do the course and things you have done that shows your enthusiasm for learning about your subject. 20% extracurricular- sports, music, DofE, etc and link the skills you have developed from doing these things back to your degree subject.

How to stay organised:
At the end of each week make sure all your work is in your main subject folders and if you're unsure on a topic, spend time consolidating your knowledge, otherwise you'll get to the end of the year and have to not only revise everything for an exam, but also learn things, when you realise there are gaps in your knowledge.

Use this year to figure out which revision techniques work for you, some include:

- Blurting – blurt all the information you know about a topic, see what you've forgotten
- Mind maps
- Flashcards
- Seneca
- Sticky notes everywhere with summary words/phrases

If it helps, use a planner or a calendar to set yourself deadlines, so you can organise your time. It's stressful when things are all due around the same time, so if you learn to find your priorities or tasks that are important, do them as soon as you can.



I use the idea of splitting your day into three: morning (before school), afternoon (straight after school), evening (after dinner or later in the evening).

Once you figure out what time you work best at, or what part of the day you know you'll be unproductive at.

Set aside one of the three parts to do things you enjoy. So you know you always have a break, otherwise you'll just burn out towards the end of the year.

If you know you've got a part of the day to enjoy yourself, you'll work much more efficiently in the times you know you have to work.

In Year 12, everyone is thrown into the same boat.

Hopefully the A Levels you've chosen you actually like or are good at because it makes life a lot easier. If not, there is time to change, or think of the bigger picture and where that qualification can get you.

Regardless, at times especially during exams, people are going to get stressed because it feels like there can be a lot of pressure.

If you're getting overwhelmed some days, there's no point in forcing yourself to work, you won't be productive and it'll be bad for your mental health.

When these days do happen (and everyone goes through them, it's completely normal) just go out with some friends or go on a walk, etc.

Sport is good at improving your wellbeing, but it's not for everyone, so the point is, do something to take your mind off work for a day and then you'll feel better and you'll be able to do something productive the next day.

As long as you try not to push things ahead of you for too long and miss deadlines or don't hand in work, there's no problem with giving yourself the time you need.

UCAS applications

- Whilst doing your UCAS applications you may find that you struggle for things to write about.
- How can you prevent this?
- Choose a subject / course if you haven't already and take up activities or hobbies that could be interesting to universities.
- Also have something that demonstrates that you have other characteristics other than academics, e.g. work/voluntary experience.

Organisation

- A-level courses have a lot of content that needs to be revised and if you don't keep your notes organised it will be more difficult than it need to be.
- Get a small folder for each subject that you can store work in short term, so the work is organised
- Have a larger folder at home for each subject that you can put work in once it gets too heavy to carry
- This allows you to keep the work tidy while not having to carry round massive folders

What is the EPQ?

The EPQ is an independent research task that can either be:

- **A product which you create plus a 1,000 word essay**
- **A 5,000 word essay on any research question**

Both of these options include the completion of a **logbook** as well as a **presentation** to your form tutor.

How it's graded:

- **20%** project planning and time management evidence
- **20%** using resources and research skills evidence
- **40%** developing an idea and producing an outcome
- **20%** evaluation and presentation skills

It is worth **half an A-level** with the project being worth up to 28 UCAS points.

What are the benefits?

- Improves **writing skills**
- Improves **time management skills**
- Learn key skills such as **Harvard referencing**
- Shows you have **interests outside of the A level syllabus**
- A good grade in an EPQ can **potentially lower grade requirements** for courses at some universities

Tips for completing an EPQ

- Set yourself deadlines to stick to
- Pick a title you're interested in
- If you're thinking of going to university, pick something to do with what you'd like to study
- Make sure your research title has enough pre-existing information about it for you to write an essay
- Don't leave the logbook to the last minute

WORKING TO DEADLINES

- WORK OUT HOW TO REVISE FOR EACH SUBJECT
- REVISION TIMETABLES/LISTS
- EXAMS

ORGANISATION- MY ADVICE

- Take the time to get organised!
- Folders
- Online Folders
- Be ready in advance
 - textbooks
 - literary texts
 - work books

Some things to participate in and to expect in year 12

- Expect a big step up in difficulty from year 11.
- To keep up with this difference in level, staying organised and getting work in before deadlines is important.
- It is good to actively participate and get involved with other activities, as well as in lessons.
- Mixing with new people in your year group, having internal and external friendships is a big part.
- CCF and DofE are also extra activities to get involved in. These will also help with things like your CV further down the line.

Extra projects

It is important to manage your time well whilst completing things like your EPQ throughout the year. It is not something you want to leave until the last minute to do.

UCAS preparation is something you may also want to consider, if you're prepared enough to think that far ahead.

Organisation

- Make use of decent size folders for all your subjects
- Use study sessions to read ahead
- There's always work to be done

Exams & Revision

- Don't leave preparation too late
- Do something other than reading textbooks
- Expect failure to learn from
- Homework can help with revision

EPQ

- Choose a topic that would be worthwhile to mention for UCAS
- Be slightly general with your initial planning
- Don't start it the same week it's due
- Don't ignore the logbook

CCF

- Not too late to join
- Numerous activities to do
- Possibility of doing L2 BTEC in Teamwork and Personal Development

Organization/deadlines

- You're not in secondary school anymore!
- So I am going to give you a few tips I learnt from Year 12:
 - Get yourselves organized as early as possible, doing it later is harder
 - Write things down, you can't expect to remember everything you need
 - Set your timetable to something that works for you
 - Communicate with your teachers!

EPQ

- The EPQ is 5000 words, of independent research
- It can be literally anything you want
- Set yourself a timeline to work to
- Don't put too much pressure on it, 5000 words is less than you think!
- Biggest point is to do something that you actually find interesting to research.



Organisation and working to deadlines

Organisation

- ❖ Day folder
- ❖ Lever arch folder for each subject with topic dividers
- ❖ Once you have finished a topic be sure to write up your notes or flashcards as you will need to know these topics for your A levels

Working to deadlines

- ❖ Planner or diary on paper or phone for due dates
- ❖ Before exams you should be revising at least a month before doing 2 hours a night



Preparing for your UCAS application

UCAS



It's never too early for to plan for the future and its always better to get a head start



Look at university courses you would like to apply for and look at the grades or points needed

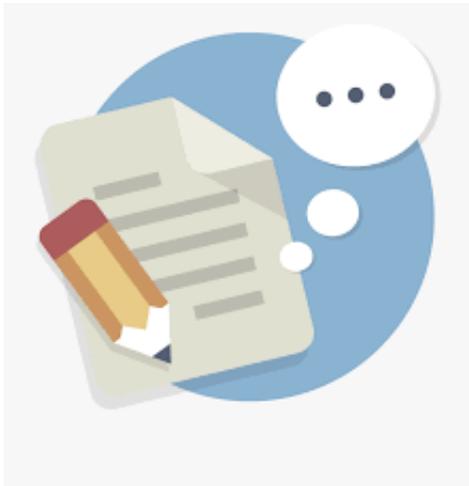


Strive for something that will challenge your but is achievable



Do as many extra ciriculum activities outside of school or volunteering as possible as it will all contritube to your personal statement

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION @ORIEL



EPQ and personal statements

EPQ

- ❖ Start your EPQ early so you don't have to worry about it when it comes to the end of the year with important exams.
- ❖ Write your EPQ on a topic that interests you as you will have to read up a lot of facts about it
- ❖ Make sure your EPQ topic is extended from the curriculum and it would be better if it could have links to your preferred career choice
- ❖ Try your best in your EPQ as some universities will lower the offer and the grades if you get your EPQ.

Personal statements

- ❖ At the beginning of year 13 is when you commonly write your personal statement before applying for university however during year 12 especially during the summer you should try and get volunteering experience especially if you are interested in medicine.
- ❖ Volunteer and do as many extra curriculars as possible
- ❖ First paragraph: why you would like to do the program/ course
- ❖ Second paragraph: how the program is suited to you give examples of your work
- ❖ Third paragraph: how you have the skills needed for the course and how your Alevels help this
- ❖ Fourth paragraph: what are your accomplishments, interests and hobbies and how have they developed your character and given you the skills for the course
- ❖ Conclusion: round up and explain why you want that university