

Independent Study in Chemistry

Effective students do at least **five** hours independent work per A level subject but your homework won't take up five hours...what else should you be doing?

Make sure you understand the topic and where it fits into the course

- Go through your notes, the specification (in the 'About' tab of the Google Classroom) and the textbook (specification to textbook links:
http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/secondary/science/AFY_Edexcel_Chemistry_Grid_final.pdf?region=uk)
- Do they make sense - if not do something about it: read the textbook; search on the internet; ask a friend; email your teacher
 - <http://www.chemguide.co.uk/>
 - <http://www.docbrown.info/page13/page13.htm>
- How does the topic link with what you have done previously - this doesn't necessarily mean earlier in the topic, for example, the reduction of **dichromate (VI)** ions to **chromium (III)** is an example of redox and is used to oxidise primary and secondary alcohols and aldehydes in organic chemistry

Learn the material

- Create revision materials e.g. flash cards
- Practise key words from the glossary (http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/secondary/science/Advanced_Chemistry_For_You_Glossary.pdf?region=uk)
- Use your revision materials for active *retrieval practice* i.e. write or say answers - don't just look at them (see 'Six strategies for effective learning' in the 'About' tab of the Google Classroom)

Practise with the material

- The textbook has questions at the end of each chapter and synoptic questions at the end of the book - answers in the back of the book or on the website:
http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/secondary/science/Advanced_Chemistry_For_You_Answers.pdf?region=uk
- Use past paper questions from the website:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/chemistry-2015.html> (The questions from the old specification will also be useful
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/chemistry-2008.html>)

Scheduling work

- Aim to revisit work irregularly (*interleave*)
- It is useful to review material after:
 - 1 day
 - 1 week
 - 1 month
 - 1 year
- Plan a schedule to ensure all work is covered and recovered.