

How to...



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SIXTH FORM

**...set up and run
effective study
groups**

Overview



Study groups are a really effective method of peer based learning if you set them up and run them properly.

What is a study group?

A study group is a group of students who work together in order to either go over and check understanding of what has been studied in class, to prepare for an upcoming topic or to revise for an assessment/exam.

Benefits of study groups:

- ✓ You can learn from each other and get insights that you might not have got on your own
- ✓ By teaching and helping others, you can consolidate and revise the information yourself as well as finding any gaps in your knowledge
- ✓ They can allow you to check that your notes are accurate and also help you to improve your notes
- ✓ They can support you if you are finding something difficult and can motivate you if you are struggling
- ✓ You can cover more material. Especially if you work effectively and split up the work between you
- ✓ It can be more interesting and fun than sitting and working completely by yourself
- ✓ They can develop your communication skills
- ✓ Ultimately they should help you to achieve more and improve your grades

Details

Who?

A small group of students, not necessarily your friends (as focus can be lost more easily!). Aim for between 3 and 6 people per study group.

When?

Whenever you like! Aim for no longer than an hour per session as they become less productive as they grow longer. It is useful to plan this out in advance and, ideally, to stick to the same time each week or fortnight to give everyone time to prepare and consolidate.

Where?

Somewhere fairly quiet so that you can concentrate and hear the discussion with a big working space so that each member of your group can spread their notes out.

What?

That is up to you. Agree some key items that you want to cover prior to each session. This could be notes from previous lessons that you want to go over and clarify, or something that you need to revise. It could also be additional reading to broaden your experience. You could decide to work on content or it could be that you work on an exam question together, looking at the mark scheme to help you to check what has been covered. You could all write a response prior to the session and then peer assess each other's. What you cover is entirely up to you but needs to be decided prior to the meeting so that you can all bring the appropriate material.

Tips for running an effective study group:

- ✓ Set a clear agenda for each meeting where you set out exactly what you want to cover (use the template if you wish)
- ✓ Come to each meeting being prepared – having read the notes and brought any relevant material. You may wish to give each group member something to research/go over in between each session.
- ✓ Set some ground rules – for example, no one should speak over anyone else or there is no such thing as a stupid question
- ✓ Ensure that everyone in your group participates.
- ✓ There should be someone who manages each session (this can be on a rota). It is their responsibility to ensure that the session is productive, that the relevant material is covered, that any items for discussion are met and that the agenda for the next meeting is set. This person should also assign breaks if required in a longer session to ensure that there is minimal disruption and that everyone can stay focused.
- ✓ Have a review of the session at the end of the meeting – maybe the last 10 minutes. This can be to check how much has been covered and if there are any questions remaining, as well as setting the next agenda.
- ✓ Stay positive – make your study group resolution focused

Actions: what you need to do next

- Decide on which subject you would like to set a study group in and what, in particular, you would like to start discussing/working on
- Identify other students who you would like to work with
- Approach the students and agree on a time and an agenda for the first meeting (use the sheet to help – below as information, physical copies are in the Hub and there is the template on the Library website)
- Find a space that will work for you – if you need a space, speak to one of the Sixth Form Team to help
- After your first meeting, evaluate it and decide mutually what else needs to be done to make the meetings more efficient

Study group form

Agenda:	
Intended outcomes:	Group roles/responsibilities:
Key points covered and discussed:	Review of the session (what worked well, what didn't <u>work</u> as well and how can this be resolved, which group roles worked and which didn't etc...)
Questions/issues still needing addressing:	
Agenda for the next session and who is doing what:	

Useful links

<https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/node/3411> - tips on how to run an effective study group

<https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/t4-media/one-web/university/students/support/mentoring/documents/Effective-peer-support--study-groups.pdf> - A more detailed guide

If you need any further support, please speak to Mrs Whitelaw, Mrs Barnard or Mr Ellis