

Homework: R+A+P

Most kids think that homework means answering the questions at the end of the chapter or rushing through the math problems just to get a check in the teacher's grade book. But homework is really your rehearsal for the test to come in a week or two.

Believe it or not, the more time you spend doing homework, the less time you need to spend studying for tests. In other words, doing your homework and studying for a test go together. Your homework is your practice for the test to come. If you pace yourself correctly, by the time the test arrives, you will be ready and will only have to review.

The Three-step Homework Plan: R+A+P Review + Assignment + Preview

- 1. Review:** Always go over what you did in class. Read your notes, say them to yourself and rewrite them if you wish. Many kids actually like rewriting their notes because it is a good way to see what they understand and what they don't. The important thing is to understand where you are in the course.
- 2. Do Your Assignments:** Your assignments are your chance to practice what you've been taught. Since a test is a way of measuring what you've learned, if you don't do the homework seriously, you will have missed your chance to practice the material. Then you'll find yourself cramming for the test, studying for hours, or simply doing poorly.
- 3. Preview:** After completing each assignment, take five minutes to look at the pages you will be covering the next day. Look at the chapter headings, the key words, the subheadings, etc. Think about where you will be going and what the teacher will be talking about. You'll be amazed how previewing will help you to focus during the next day's class so that you'll get more out of class time.

Some "Don'ts" and one important "Do" about homework

- Don't just answer the questions at the end of the chapter and skip reading the chapter.
- Don't just do your homework to get a check in the grade book.
- Don't rush through your homework just to get it done.
- Don't cram before a test instead of doing your homework.
- Don't do your homework or study for a test on the bus on the way to school.
- Don't try to memorize the whole chapter. Understand it.
- Do your homework to learn something.

Homework: How Much Time Do You Need?

Did you ever think about how much time you need to do your homework for each subject? You may need, for example, three hours for one subject and ten minutes for another. It's important to find out how much time you really need. For all you know, you may be spending too many hours studying when you could be out playing basketball or shopping with a friend! Then again, you may not be spending enough time. Let's find out just how much time you need.

1. Before you fill in your study times, look at the completed chart for the sample student.
2. Now find out how much time you need. First list the subjects you are taking. Next to each one, write the amount of time you need to complete an average assignment. Round each one off to 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 45 minutes, 60 minutes.

Subject	Time Needed	Subject	Time Needed
English	15 minutes	1.	
Math	30 minutes	2.	
Social Studies	15 minutes	3.	
Science	30 minutes	4.	
Language	15 minutes	5.	
Other	15 minutes	6.	
TOTAL	2 hours	TOTAL	



"Hey Phillip, can you tell the bus driver to slow down a little. I have to finish my homework before we get to school."