



Advice and Guidance for Humanities *Year 7*



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SCHOOL

Year 7: A guide to homework in Humanities



Homework is the work pupils do beyond the normal timetabled lessons. It does not necessarily have to be completed at home, nor does it have to be unaided work.

Why homework?

Homework is set to:

- Help pupils develop independent life-long learning skills
- Increase pupil responsibility for their learning
- Extend work done in lessons
- Provide opportunities for enriched learning experiences

- Support pupils' learning within the Humanities curriculum
- Encourage you as parents to be involved in the pupils' learning experiences

Each department in Humanities sets a range of homework activities. These include:

- Information retrieval activities, via interviews, texts, libraries, museums
- Design and making work, encouraging the use of IT
- Drafting essays and reports
- Reading
- Preparing oral presentations
- Testing skills learned in the lesson
- Revision
- Learning key vocabulary and definitions

Homework for Year 7 pupils is set on the school learning platform so pupils can see what has been set, what deadline has been given and access any electronic resources the teacher may have provided. Pupils will receive detentions if they fail to complete homework tasks and hand them in on time. Pupils work is marked

in line with the school homework policy and quickly returned to pupils.

The work can be completed at home but we encourage pupils to use their spare time at school on private study, therefore it is quite acceptable for homework activities to be completed on the school premises.

Pupils are able to use the LRC homework club between 3:10pm-4pm each day and the Humanities breakout space on lunchtimes to complete their homework.

As pupils proceed through Key Stage 3 and into Key Stage 4, amounts of homework set increases as appropriate so it is important to get into good homework habits from an early stage.

The role of parents

Parents are encouraged to support their child's learning and homework activities gives them an ideal opportunity to do this. Parents share the responsibility, with their child, for the completion and handing in of this work.

Helping with homework

Your child needs to work more independently at secondary school

but your interest and input is still be important and will help your child to do well.

Look for opportunities to talk to your child about schoolwork – pupils enjoy sharing what they are learning. Try to find topics you're both interested in so it's more of a conversation than an interrogation.

Ask your child if there's anything you can do to help with homework. Discuss the organisation of the work. If your child has several assignments due in on the same day, suggest they space the work out rather than leave it all until the night before.

Where possible provide a quiet work space where homework can be completed.

Other ways to support your child's learning:

You may not be reading with your child as you did at primary school but you can still support good reading habits. Talk to your child about the books you're both reading. Ask what books your child would like go to the library together.

Keeping up-to-date with the news helps with schoolwork; try to encourage your child to read a newspaper at least once or twice a week. Find news stories that connect to lesson topics. If your child is

researching a subject, suggest the online archives of a good newspaper or the BBC website.

If you're planning a day out, visit a museum or gallery that will tie in with work your child is doing in RE, Geography or History subjects - this can be a fun way to add depth and interest to your child's learning.

Useful websites for Humanities homework are:

Geography:

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/geography.

History:

www.bbc.co.uk

www.schoolhistory.co.uk

www.historyonthenet.com

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history

RE:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/teachers/keystage_3/topics/re.shtml

<http://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/religious-education/>

Advice for succeeding in KS3 Geography

- Buy your child an atlas, not only will it help their studies, you can look up the location of places you are travelling/have travelled to, find unknown places in the news, or ask them to locate the places we have studied
- Geography is topical, so encouraging your child to watch the news and read newspapers, will help inform them of the issues facing the World. Geography is full of opinions, so debating controversial topics is a way of training the Geographer within
- Google Earth is a free programme to download (<http://earth.google.com/>) that provides access to a 3.D. Earth and quality satellite imagery. Great to explore places you have been or places you dream of travelling to...
- Visit the library! Encourage your child to read fiction and non-fiction with a geographical theme. Travel books help develop an interest in other places and their cultures.
- Geographers love images. Ask your child to take pictures of landscapes that interest or inspire them, whilst on a day trip or holiday. Provide your child with a photo album or scrap book, so they can record their travels.
- Ask your child to plan a day trip as part of your family holiday. This will encourage your child to use maps, public transport timetables and read about local visitor attractions. Of course, you could set a budget!
- Encourage your child to watch fiction and non-fiction films with a geographical theme. A great deal of geographical knowledge can be gained from both the 'March of the Penguins' and 'Happy Feet'.
- Geographers recognise that everything is connected. Encourage your child to recognise the connections between your family and the wider world. Where do your relatives live? Which countries provide your food? Where were their Christmas presents manufactured?
- Encourage your child to come and ask us their questions. We might not know the answers, but it will be fun discovering together!

Advice for succeeding in KS3 History

- History is topical, so encouraging your child to watch the news and read newspapers, will help inform them of the issues facing the World. History is full of opinions, so debating controversial topics is a way of training the Historian within.
- Discuss the news with your child and ask them to explain their opinions, this will help them put their ideas into words in lessons.
- Play History games on www.schoolhistory.co.uk this is a free website with lots of multiple choice games, such as penalty shootout or fling the teacher if you get the answers right.
- Visit the library! Encourage your child to read fiction and non-fiction with a historical theme.
- Historians love exploring. Ask your child to take pictures of buildings or statues that interest or inspire them, whilst on a day trip or holiday. Provide your child with a photo album or scrap book, so they can record the places they have visited.
- Ask your child to plan a day trip as part of your family holiday. This will encourage your child to look at different historical sites and read about local visitor attractions. Of course, you could set a budget, or visit free sites such as the city walls around York, or the old Beverley Gate entrance to Medieval Hull near Princes Quay.
- If you can, join English Heritage. Then you can visit lots of interesting historical sites for free, such as Stonehenge, and up to 6 children get in for free with each adult member.
- Encourage your child to watch fiction and non-fiction films and television with a historical theme. A great deal of Historical knowledge can be gained from both the 'Horrible Histories' and 'Dr Who'.
- Encourage your child to come and ask us their questions. We might not know the answers, but it will be fun discovering together!

Advice for succeeding in KS3 RE

- Modern RE is not just about Christianity. We also study other religions and cultures, as well as moral and philosophical issues. There are many things that you can do to help support your child's progress in RE
- If you have a family Bible, look through this with your child, and discuss why people wrote down dates of births and deaths in this particular book
- RE is very topical. Watching the news can offer opportunities to discuss moral issues, as well as other cultures and beliefs
- The Big Questions on BBC Sunday mornings often discusses political, ethical, and religious issues. This can help students learn about different points of view and how to discuss them
- Visit the library! Encourage your child to read fiction and non-fiction with a religious theme. The Narnia books, The Dark Materials Trilogy, Life of Pi, A Christmas Carol – all have religious themes (and will help with English too!)
- Religion, philosophy, and films go well together. A list of films that can link to RE can be found here <http://www.philfilms.utm.edu/2/filmlist.htm> (note: not all of these films will be suitable for children)
- Look out for places of worship when on holiday. Many historical Churches, Mosques, Synagogues, and Temples will welcome visitors and give guided tours about the history of the religion and the building itself.
- We ask BIG questions in RE, like 'how did the universe get here?' and 'what happens after we die'. There aren't always answers to these questions; the art is in thinking about the different possibilities. Encourage your child to think of more than one solution to their schoolwork
- Encourage your child to come and ask us their questions. We might not know the answers, but it will be fun discovering together!

