tips, tricks and advice for year 12 (and also year 11) <3

From a 2021 graduate :D (my subjects were AIT, chemistry, english, methods and physics)

I do apologise for how long this is, I just wanted to give as much advice as I could and hope that you find something helpful in amongst everything here :D

## Other google drive links from people

* <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EgD8x0hbUcK4kmIQPJxCpVuMjhzz2see?fbclid=IwAR3TBgoS4IrrT0_MEuDqt5-MUFDxH5PWbSK16qEmqE7lvU7TXRliXX3FuDk>
* <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1cgC0rCJvxyleJUtxnxq2_8ERDaMdEK8s?fbclid=IwAR1hixQYfZKdreSOQcN4Hnl53xeL0fjCugbxGJ1TY1po1UuxcPkFplm-Oos>

## Self-care

This is the most important thing in your high school experience. Never sacrifice your whole mental health and sleep schedule for one tiny assignment. Mental and physical health always comes before concerning yourself with grades.

* Remember that wherever you want to go, there will always be a pathway for you and it may be a detour if you don’t get the results that you want but that is always better than forcing yourself to mental breakdown in your last year of school
	+ Enjoy your time in school while you can otherwise you’ll leave with regrets :(
* If a subject is not going super well and you can drop to get a study period, determine whether or not it is worth it or if you can push through to the end of the year
	+ A lot of people dropped from chem and methods from year 11 → 12 and they are so relieved that they did as the difficulty definitely increased

I know this is a term thrown around a lot but doing the smallest things can make you feel much better when you start to reach the exam periods:

* Go for a walk or a run and listen to your favourite music
* Go for a drive to watch the sunset
* If you still want to study: change up your scenery
	+ Go to the beach
	+ Go to a park
	+ Go to a library where you can live out your aesthetic study life dreams ig
* Invite some friends to hang out somewhere together
* Cook some food that you like
* Have a friend group study break together and hang out
* Play a game
	+ Another opportunity for either personal time or to play with friends even if it isn’t for a long time
* Watch a movie/tv show you enjoy
	+ Even if you feel bad about not studying, you can make notes etc. while watching a show if you want to
* Learn an instrument
	+ Or tick something else small off your bucket list

Year 12, by far, has been the quickest year of my life to date and so you need to make sure that you can look back on it and remember that you took care of yourself and that you were happy overall (even if the exam periods are the worst times of your life, trust me, I was burnt out by the first day and ended up procrastinating a lot)

## Study timing/timetabling

* Make sure you have either a printed calendar/weekly schedule or digital calendar so you can keep track of what study you want to do on what days + when your exams are

## Creating notes, flashcards etc.

Whatever you do, **do not leave these to the last minute**, I cannot urge you enough.

* Set the style that you will keep consistent for your notes throughout the year
	+ In year 11 you have more room to experiment with this but for year 12 definitely keep it consistent
* Your style may be:
	+ Copying out the powerpoints/textbook notes into a notebook
	+ Copy and pasting all the notes onto a big document and reading/highlighting them online
	+ Creating flashcards after a topic has been covered
	+ Making summary note sheets and keeping them in a display folder
	+ Etc.
* Keep relatively on top of note creation and make sure you’re not doing too much (try to somewhat summarise as you go so you don’t have to bother with it later on)

## Study techniques - tests/throughout the year

* Re-read your notes
* Make summary notes (this saves you time later before the exams as well)
* Talk out loud as if you are teaching yourself/teach a family member
	+ If you can, get a friend you can call/study with efficiently and who you can bounce ideas off of
* Sit with your friends/classmates before the test and talk through ideas with them
	+ oftentimes I’ve learnt a small thing being tested for only a couple of minutes before the test and it’s saved me a few times
	+ (i know a lot of people say not to do this but I believe it is helpful depending on who your classmates are)
* There is no need to be studying for 6+ hours every night just during the term, it will lead you to burnout and be exhausted before the exam season even comes close
	+ Find a balance with social, study, work (if you have a job) and personal time so you can actually enjoy your last year of school

### Subject-specific to what I studied:

#### AIT:

* Talk about the topics with teachers, there aren’t that many resources out there so I would just have chats with my teacher about anything I needed more information/clarification on
* Make sure you know the key concepts like elements and principles of design and basic hardware etc.
	+ I found those things tend to come up in most tests regardless of the topic

#### Chemistry:

* Make sure you know key concepts like bonding, intermolecular forces, etc. because they come up in almost all things you do and tend to be the answers to most questions in some way
* Practice from any study guides you may have
	+ We found the difficulty increases from study guides -> textbook -> test questions so it builds foundational knowledge
* Understand calculation questions as soon as you can grasp them, they come up everywhere and it is a vital skill to know what you have and how you can calculate what you need to find with it
* [MysteryLimb](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChxqa9G0todSz2C9D7OsGZg?app=desktop&fbclid=IwAR28ZaH9en-Hqh3hWC_wZjNgl0doi2Pk5CGX05zr_wO-n71pLBlA5d2MvkU) is a very helpful YouTube channel, he is a Y12 chem teacher and has tutorials for the whole Y12 course (+ Y11 course as well)
	+ I watched through all his videos a couple days before the WACE exam and it really helped heaps

#### English:

* Just do practice questions, if you are particularly weak at a certain section of the exam, go to old exams and do questions from them (hand them to your teacher to mark or self-mark)
* Time yourself handwriting a section of the exam to see how fast you are able to work
* Find out what ~200/300 words in your handwriting equates to in terms of how much paper you write on so you don’t waste time counting words in an exam
	+ So for a comprehending you know you’ve written enough words before moving on
	+ Generally about ¾ - 1 page of writing
* Make sure you know your techniques (visual, written)
* Make sure you know the differences between an essay, extended response etc.
* Create a table of quotes and techniques/attitudes/voice etc. that they related to so that you are prepared for any question you can be asked

#### Methods:

* Practice, practice, practice
	+ It may be boring and/or hard to commit to but stay on top of practising
* We found that textbook questions tend to be much much easier than test/exam questions so step up from textbook -> exam as soon as you grasp the concepts and have done a fair bit of practice
* A lot of questions boil down to the basics but are being applied in a more complicated sense so try to simplify your thinking down to a certain level
* Ask your teacher if you don’t understand how an answer is achieved, oftentimes it is down to a small mistake you’ve made or a misunderstanding you have

#### Physics:

* Also practice, practice, practice
* In the exam: start with comprehension so you get it over and done with and you can use reading time to read through the big texts

## Study techniques - exams

* Make a timetable/calendar to visually see when your exams are/important events
* Practice exams are your friend

Collate all notes (at least 2-3 weeks before)

Create all palm cards (at least 2-3 weeks before)

Get together a binder/organisation of anything you need (at least 2 weeks before)

* Practice exams, note sheets, practice tests

Go through old tests (even if you did well on them) (about 1-2 weeks before)

* Find mistakes and work through them again until you understand where the answer comes from

By about 1 week before, you shouldn’t be making any more notes. Only do practice tests/exams from then on.

## Study techniques - WACE

* ECU runs revision courses for a decent number of the main courses
	+ Strongly recommend doing these as they go through things that a lot of people tend to get wrong/main bits that people struggle with
* Join the WACE discussion space on FaceBook (if you didn’t find this document from there)
	+ Lots of people send through google drive links and dropbox links to past papers and notes

## What I do when I study

### Low level: (collating notes, making flashcards)

* Podcast in the background (especially longer ones so you won’t be switching as often), especially since these tend to have one per week so if you find a few that you like then you’ll always have a podcast for when you have to study
	+ My faves (definitely not to everyone’s tastes - mostly comedy/internet culture podcasts): the yard, chuckle sandwich, theweeklyslap, sleep deprived
* Longer videos in the background (like video essays), you can zone them out and also learn new things from them as well
	+ My faves: Disrupt, j aubrey
* Livestream VODs, they’re generally not as full-on as normal youtube videos and so are good background sounds
	+ Or even just game playthroughs

### Medium level: (reading through notes, going through flashcards, doing practice problems)

* Background rain sounds
* Lofi music
	+ I like lofi versions of video game music like animal crossing
* Sometimes a podcast/video if I feel I can properly zone them out
* Listen to music in another language so I don’t get distracted by the lyrics

### High level: (learning new content, practice exams, long periods of hard studying)

* Lofi music/noise cancelling on my earbuds
* I pause the music when I get into the “zone”
* I am usually at the library during these times to eliminate house noise etc.
* Watching videos about the content on YouTube

## Helpful apps

* [Notion:](https://www.notion.so/) my number one app, I run everything in my life on it from to-do lists to inspiration boards and keeping track of due dates etc., syncs between Windows, iPad, iPhone and Mac
	+ There are also many sites for extensions/widgets you can embed into your notion boards
* [Microsoft’s Math:](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/microsoft-math-solver-hw-app/id1483962204) very helpful for stepping through math problems, there is also a website for it <https://math.microsoft.com/>
* [Magnet (Mac ~$13):](https://apps.apple.com/au/app/magnet/id441258766?mt=12) lets you snap windows to half the screen, thirds etc. similar to how Windows does, very helpful and I use this every day
* [Forest (~$3):](https://apps.apple.com/au/app/forest-stay-focused/id866450515) probably my most used app, you plant a tree and leave it as you study and built a little forest through it, you earn coins and can buy more trees and it gives you stats on when you study most so you can see your study habits

### For iPad users:

Remember you don’t need the fanciest iPad btw, I have the 7th Gen with the normal apple pencil and it helps me as much as the fancy one would ¯\\_(ツ)\_/¯

* [Goodnotes 5 (~$8):](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/goodnotes-5/id1444383602) I took a bunch of my summary notes on here and did all my maths working etc. if you have the iPad app, you can get the iPhone and Mac app under the same account for free
* [Notability (~$9):](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/notability/id360593530) I used this one only for taking notes on the powerpoints we did in class, it lets you record what your teacher is saying and so you can go back and see why you took a certain part of the annotation

## Helpful chrome extensions

* [OneLine:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/oneline/pfdihdpobdolfdpoanloglnekonnhglh) possibly one of my favourites, highlights articles and readings line by line, helpful for keeping track of where you’re reading
* [OneTab:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/onetab/chphlpgkkbolifaimnlloiipkdnihall) I use this every day, collapses all the tabs into one easily accessible one, saves them into groups as well, very helpful for stopping lagging computers and saving memory
* [Visor:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/visor/lhpbckonakppajdgicbjdfokagjofnob) another reading aid that helps you read line-by-line
* [Speechify:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/speechify-for-chrome/ljflmlehinmoeknoonhibbjpldiijjmm) reads out articles so you can focus on writing and cutting down on work time
* [Video Speed Controller:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/video-speed-controller/nffaoalbilbmmfgbnbgppjihopabppdk) change the speeds of YouTube and other videos so you can cut down on listening time
* [Google Docs Dark Mode:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/google-docs-dark-mode/lgjhepbpjcmfmjlpkkdjlbgomamkgonb) for when you’re working late at night on an assignment (it is a bit weird to use sometimes though)
* [Google Docs Offline:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/google-docs-offline/ghbmnnjooekpmoecnnnilnnbdlolhkhi) a must-have for google drive users, saves everything offline so you can work on the go
* [Grammarly:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/grammarly-for-chrome/kbfnbcaeplbcioakkpcpgfkobkghlhen) obviously great for writing and revising for english/doing assignments
* [SwiftRead:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/swiftread-read-faster-lea/ipikiaejjblmdopojhpejjmbedhlibno) runs through articles word by word but in that speed-read style, helpful if you need to read something really fast
* [Save to Pocket:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/save-to-pocket/niloccemoadcdkdjlinkgdfekeahmflj) helpful for saving articles/readings to a folder, has a phone app where you can download when to read offline
* [Wikiwand:](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/wikiwand-wikipedia-modern/emffkefkbkpkgpdeeooapgaicgmcbolj) makes Wikipedia look nicer and makes it way easier to read/navigate
* [Noisli:](https://www.noisli.com/) background sounds for studying
* [Raining.fm:](https://raining.fm/) rain sounds

## Helpful websites

* [Past ATAR course exams main page](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/past-atar-course-exams)
* [Derivative Calculator](https://www.derivative-calculator.net/)
* [Integral Calculator](https://www.integral-calculator.com/)
* [Z Library:](https://z-lib.org/) largest ebook library
* [Library Genesis](https://libgen.is/)
* [ThriftBooks:](https://www.thriftbooks.com/) cheap ebooks
* [Slugbooks:](https://www.slugbooks.com/) compare textbook prices
* [Docsity:](https://www.docsity.com/en/) essays and other notes
* [Omni Calculator](https://www.omnicalculator.com/)

## Other Google Drive links I used (not mine)

* [ATAR notes](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qCwl0KqHnzD4JBIeeX5fdH1zl8CEQ7aK?fbclid=IwAR0YAHYYycl097w3XKYGEksAzJfpssvFRn2gy32BBU3u3pOrJRkZ2iWdBYU)
* [Fire](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1z4OkT-_w1lFe7-jPpqibbPu-CLrBo-oM)
* [Dropbox physics revision ECU seminar 2021](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6yre5y3ax2rk089/AADeL3-9HxZshcO8JARrhTJCa?dl=0)
* [EXAM PRAC!!](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/13neheKScF3ezHS0qs-ZLIlaAlkxaGma6?fbclid=IwAR0J__IEw55uli31tvQGy9cwhTLHeSLtgHym0ZPT0e1x23ZTUJUvoDvgMVo)
* [Maths Methods Unit 3 and 4](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vh8y2EDDd7RU_YN0hSXbic3M1aF_xErm/view?fbclid=IwAR1rjXkvDSd-q6PoeZTBoCPnQC5uFGYV-trI-nVNmfeMQiWiYpQfbfKIBTQ)
* [Y12 Maths Methods notes](https://sharpenedonline.com/wace-year-12-atar-mathematics-methods-exam-notes-cheat-sheet/?fbclid=IwAR1zdeREwpvsvRKAR-ZXoNIOj5M6nOokYh7RfgMktTSE0emfZPBJsa_O3ZU)
* [Resources](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fsszxk0cppknjdl/AAAHfoucUXWE2k-988v7gErta?dl=0&fbclid=IwAR2fq5srVNcsFXJtQKSdWQIJeT_dueja-ZXFuuRxwDiVFacfUvyXgpERFOY)

## Study method YouTube videos I watched/found helpful

* [animedoro method](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUjGZJIgse0&list=TLPQMjAwMTIwMjFhzwJ0vrRKFA&index=4)
* [essay memorisation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-46Vyiwat_Y)
* [how to absorb textbooks like a sponge](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqYmmZKY4sA&list=WL&index=18)
* [how to learn pretty much anything](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2N5a7XZWg8&list=WL&index=12)
* [how to excel at maths and science](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjdhNyEmYpo&list=WL&index=14)