

# How to study effectively in a group

A STUDY group is a great way to revise, but putting one together can be tricky. Here is how to form one that will help you get the most out of communal learning.

## Think outside the comfort zone

Get together a group of people you don't know so that you can get new angles of perspective.

## Keep it small

Instead of "the more, the merrier", think "too many chefs spoil the broth". Three is all right, but a group of four is ideal as you can pair off.

Six should be the maximum - any more and you have too many opinions and not enough time for everyone to have meaningful question time.

## Outline a plan of action

Plan your study sessions accordingly. Decide how long each meeting will be, how much you will cover and who will be responsible for what.

Tip: pick a regular time and do not make exceptions, as it is too difficult to accommodate the needs of half a dozen people.



A study group of four people is ideal as you can pair off.

## Pick a good place

Pick somewhere quiet so that you are not being blasted by music or interrupted by friends.

An empty classroom or study room is ideal. A cafeteria is also okay as long as you do not pick meal times when crowds will make it hard to concentrate.

## Take turns to present

Explaining a topic to someone else

is the best way to find out what you know. Take turns to present topics. When it is your turn, share your notes.

## Plan for exam revision

Once you are used to each other, you will find it helpful to revise for exams too.

Plan one session to predict what will come up in the exams, and one or two more sessions to revise the trickiest concepts.

# It's not that difficult to get good grades

THINK you could get better grades? By changing your classroom habits, you can help your grades soar!

## Print out notes before class

Teachers usually make their PowerPoint slides available at the start of semester. Once they're up, get the lot printed and use paper clips to divide them into topics. Take them to class and make your notes on the printouts as your teacher lectures. Connecting the lecture to the notes will boost your memory.

## Ask a question

You may not be in a situation where you're encouraged to participate but if you are, then taking part will do two things.

First, it forces you to pay attention, which will boost your understanding and recall.

Second, by asking a question on something you're uncertain about, you will learn more.

Don't be worried about looking



Don't hesitate to ask about something you're uncertain of as you will learn more.

stupid; asking for help is what a class is about. Failing because you didn't ask, now that's daft!

## Answer a question

Yes, once again it's the taking part that will help boost your understanding and recall. Also, answering a question is a great opportunity to check you've understood something. And if you haven't, then this is a much better time than finding out

after the exam. Also, your teacher will correct you and give you the answer.

## Be on time

Being late is not considered a big deal by some people but by being on time, you won't miss out on important things like lesson overviews, learning goals, questions about assignments and other vital information.