

# HSC COWORKS

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## SUMMER HOLIDAYS STUDY GUIDE





# USING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS TO YOUR FULL POTENTIAL!

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The summer holidays are a critical time during which we encourage all students to;

1. Actively reflect
2. Plan
3. Rest!
4. Get Prepared for Term 1 and a big HSC year

We encourage you to have a good rest and re-group from a very busy year of Year 11 and 1st term of the HSC. Whilst of course a rest is in order, equally important is to use this period to make progress towards being fully prepared for the final 254 days of school. Once you have enjoyed a break, ensure that you utilise the tips below and continue to apply the HSC CoWorks Key Behaviours so that you come back in Term 1 feeling confident, in control and ready for the first set of assessment tasks.

Whilst HSC CoWorks is closed for sessions between December 14th – January 14th, we encourage you to utilise the HSC CoWorks Portal and Marking Service throughout your school holidays.

Weekend sessions re-start on Friday January 14th and we also have a **January Study Bootcamp** running from January 18-22nd (please contact if you would like to book a place) to get you ready for Term 1.

Weekday sessions will resume on Monday February 1st.

## ***Fun Facts..***

- On January 31st 2021, there are 254 days until your final exams begin.
- You started kindergarten 4,641 days ago.
- 76,000 students sat their HSC in 2020

**ENGAGE YOUR VISION  
PLAN  
TRAIN. DAILY.  
PUSH YOUR COMFORT ZONE  
GRIT  
OWN IT**



**STUDENT KEY BEHAVIOURS**



# CONSOLIDATE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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This is the best opportunity you will have to carefully and concisely review the topics which you have studied in Term 4 and reflect on where the areas for improvement and knowledge gaps are. Year 11 was a busy year and you may even need to re-visit basic topics which are foundational for your Year 12 studies.

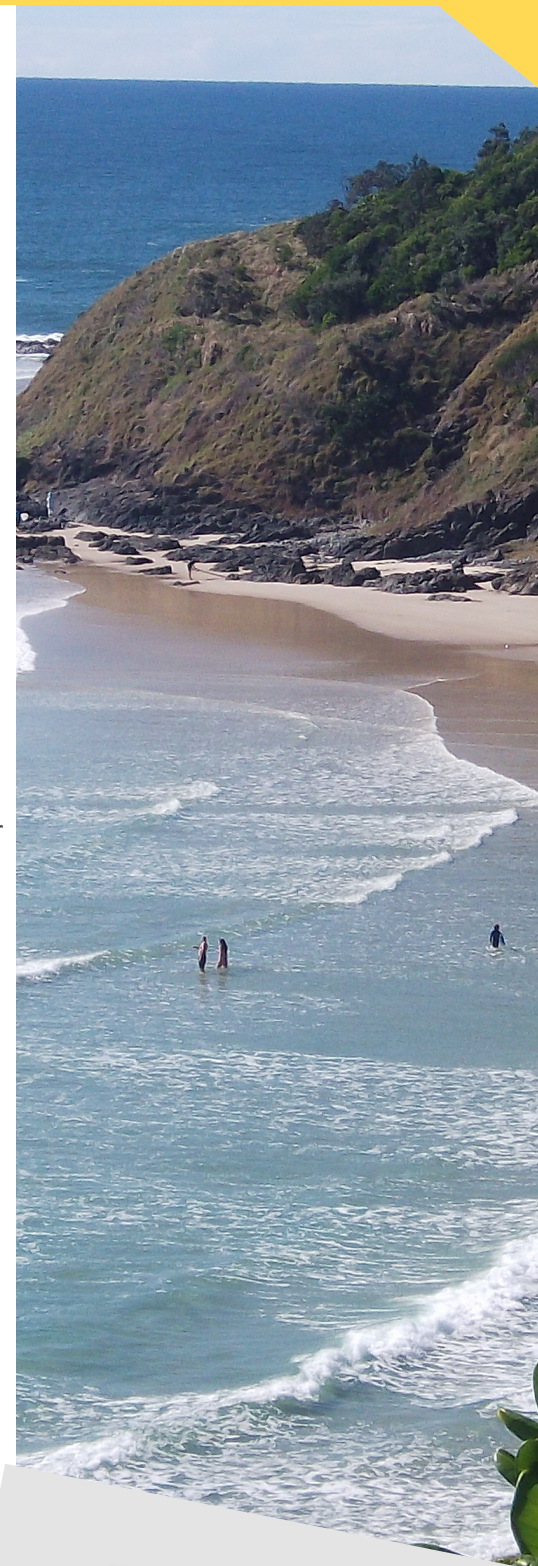
Not only will this process boost your confidence heading into term 2 but it will help eliminate any unnecessary stress arising throughout the rest of year 12 from any unresolved content issues. Our brain craves 'Certainty', so the more that you can provide your brain with this, the less stress, worry and panic you will face in the next exam.

## How to identify development areas?

- Can you generate mindmaps for topics studied from memory?
- Would you feel confident explaining all concepts/key points to a family member or friend?
- Can you easily recall the themes as well as 5-10 quotes for your Term 4 English text?
- Have you been through your Term 4 assessment tasks to identify which questions you got incorrect.

## How to consolidate your knowledge?

- Create syllabus/topic mindmaps and then train your brain by writing these out under exam conditions.
- Teach a family member a topic you are studying.
- Attempt as many exam style questions for Term 4 topics as possible.



HARD WORK  
BEATS TALENT  
WHEN TALENT  
DOESN'T WORK  
HARD  
— Jim Nalke —



# PLAN YOUR WORK AND WORK YOUR PLAN

7 weeks is a long time but in between travel, social gatherings and other commitments, you could easily lose track of how much time you actually have to accomplish your tasks and before you know it you will be back at school with your first assessment tasks looming.

If you are serious about making your HSC vision your HSC reality, identify all those tasks that if completed will put you in the best position for the start of the new school year.

By mapping out the tasks you need to achieve and chipping away at these across the summer holidays, you will feel more confident and energised going into Term 1. Remember to utilise your HSC CoWorks Planning Pad to assist this process. You can either pick up your 100 page Planning Pad from the offices or download a [printable template here](#).

Studies have shown that people perform better when they have written down what they need to do. Read this article from [The Guardian](#) to find out why your brain loves a to-do list!

The image shows a 'HSC CoWorks Planning Pad' template. At the top, it says 'HSC COWORKS PLANNING PAD' and 'TODAY IS \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_'. Below this is a motivational banner: 'ENGAGE YOUR VISION. PLAN. TRAIN DAILY. PUSH YOUR COMFORT ZONE. GRIT. OWN IT.' and 'CONQUER YOUR HSC. CONQUER YOUR LIFE!'. The main section is divided into five subjects, each with a yellow header: 'SUBJECT 1:', 'SUBJECT 2:', 'SUBJECT 3:', 'SUBJECT 4:', and 'SUBJECT 5:'. Each subject section has a 'MY VISION' box, a 'MY WHY' box, and a list of tasks. To the right of each task list is a 'TIME ALLOCATION' column with checkboxes. At the bottom of each subject section is a checkbox for 'ASSESSMENT TASK WITHIN 2 WEEKS?'. The template is designed to help students plan their work and track progress.



# GET AHEAD OF THE PACK

The holidays are a supremely useful time for you to start thinking and preparing for term 1 ahead of the class.

- Gain momentum on your major works
- Build syllabus topic mind maps for upcoming topics
- Pre-read your textbook and attempt practice questions provided to you
- Read your English texts for 2021
- Continue to engage with the HSC CoWorks Challenge Feed to test your knowledge under exam conditions in your covered topics and texts.
- Teach a family member about each of your upcoming topics based on your research.

By looking ahead, getting curious, and starting the process of building connections in your brain around upcoming topics and texts you are giving your brain the certainty it craves in order to successfully deal with challenges. If your brain has a level of certainty around the upcoming topics it will be able to more successfully navigate the inevitable challenges that lie ahead.

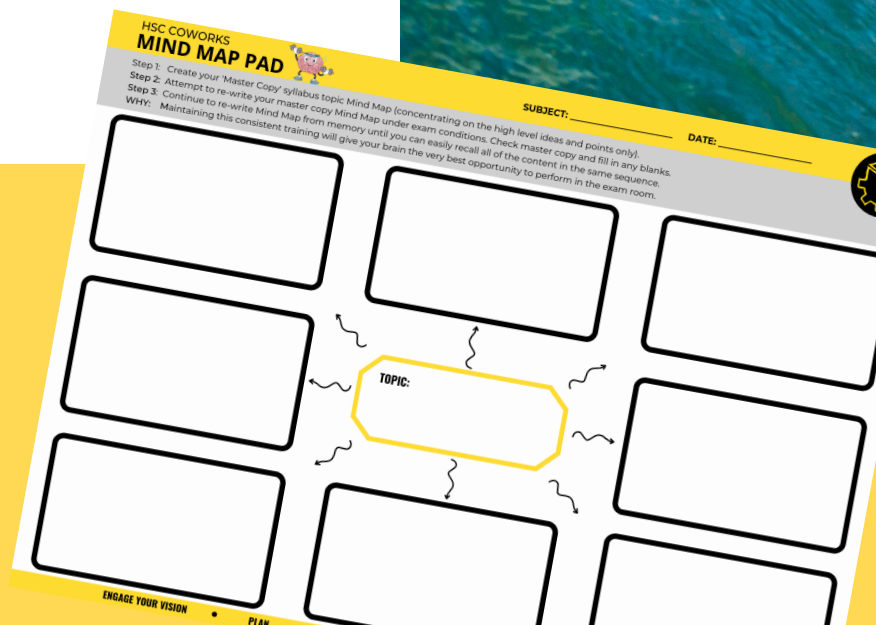
At a minimum you should aim to have high levels of certainty around all Term 1 topics and texts by the end of January.

**DON'T PUT IN HALF**

**THE EFFORT UNLESS**

**YOU'RE OKAY WITH HALF**

**THE RESULTS**





# GET AHEAD OF THE PACK: ACHIEVEMENT BADGES

STUDY TIP #3

You can now earn achievement badges for reaching specific milestones in your output and engagement with the CoWorks program.

For the summer holidays, you can earn 10 bonus marking credits for each of our two 'challenge badges' earned over December and January.

The 'Christmas Badge' will be awarded to students who generate 500 points between December 1st and December 25th and the 'Summer Badge' will be awarded to students who generate 500 points from the 1st of January to the 31st of January.

You can earn points towards these badges through:

- Coach initiated collaborations during sessions (25 points per collaboration)
- Submission of challenge questions in the Challenge Feed for feedback from the marking team (20 points per challenge question)
- Submission of draft essays (100 points per essay)
- Submission of Essay Building Templates (100 points per Essay Building Template marked 'complete')
- Submission of Short Answer Questions (30 points per set of questions)
- Source Tasks for English, Modern History, Ancient History and Visual Arts (75 points per submission)
- Multiple Choice Questions (3 points per correct answer)
- Mind Map Pad uploads - 20 points per mind map
- Planning Pad uploads - 20 points per mind map
- Depth Study uploads - 100 points per Depth Study

Make sure to enjoy your break and work towards achieving these points when you have the time over the summer.





# DON'T UNDERESTIMATE READING & RESEARCH

## STUDY TIP #4

The school holidays represents a time where you can tick off the less onerous tasks and allow yourself to really engage with the content. Once the school term starts in late January 2021, your opportunity to sit down to read and undertake further research is largely diminished with the scarcity of time.

So get curious this summer and you might actually find out that your HSC topics are fascinating! By reading and researching, you will be forced to think more critically around your work. If you are thinking more critically around the topics being studied you will be more engaged in the subject matter. If you are more engaged you will be more motivated to apply your increased level of critical thinking to exams and assessment tasks.

**Business Studies student?** Develop an intimate knowledge of all aspects of your business case study e.g. Qantas, Unilever. The goal here is to be able to confidently give a 3min presentation on this company to anyone willing to listen and relate it to the syllabus.

**Modern History student?** Watch some documentaries on a topic or conflict being studied. There are a lot of great WW1/2 ones on Netflix and the moment. Watch YouTube videos, listen to podcasts and read news articles/books written by historians about your topics to get a better overall idea of how all the events link together.

**Economics student?** Develop an intimate knowledge of your case study country. Complete research on the Economist, IMF, WTO and other reputable websites for the Economic policies that have made the country what it is today. Also keep a running document where you record any major changes in the economy e.g. exchange rate, interest rate, budget changes



# READING & RESEARCH

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**Ancient History student?** Watch documentaries or TV series on Pompeii or your other elective topics. There are some great ones on Netflix and YouTube. Also read any current news articles on new discoveries or historians books on past finds.

**Biology/Chemistry/Physics student?** Use the syllabus to identify topics you will be studying in the upcoming term then source some YouTube summary videos to get familiar. Keep a running document with research for your depth study

**Mathematics student?** Spend time revising previous topics by completing all chapter reviews and website questions to consolidate knowledge

**Drama student?** Begin researching and planning for your major work and performances. Watch as many examples online, particularly Youtube where you can source great monologues and extracts. Keep a running document on your research for your major and group presentation with all ideas and resources

**Visual Arts student?** Continue consolidating your ideas for your major, research widely online as to examples from previous years (search ArtExpress for the top works), and keep a running document of all your progress for your log book. Begin sourcing any materials you need or start draft/sample works

**Studies of Religion student?** Watch documentaries or read articles/books on your set topics. There are some great videos on YouTube and Netflix relating to these which we suggest you watch

**Legal Studies student?** Source some summary videos on YouTube for your key topics to refine your understanding on them in an international and domestic legal context. Keep a running document of any changes to legislation or debates over legal topics you see in the news or online





# READING & RESEARCH

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**Geography student?** Develop an intimate knowledge of all aspects of the syllabus by watching any relevant documentaries or summary videos online for syllabus topics like mega cities, world cities, viticulture etc.

**Extension English student?** Begin brainstorming and drafting for your major project. Research widely, look for exemplars, watch relevant YouTube videos on areas of interest and keep a running document of all research for your log book

**History Extension student?** Develop an intimate knowledge of your selected major work topic and case study. Watch relevant YouTube or Netflix documentaries, read historians books and keep up to date with recent news articles on your topic. Begin drafting your essay and keep a running log of all resources found

**PDHPE student?** Get familiar across all topics covered in the syllabus so far and those upcoming by watching YouTube summary videos on relevant topics

**English student?** Develop an intimate knowledge of your selected texts by watching YouTube summary videos or movie versions of your texts. Read relevant articles analysing or critiquing your text and keep notes on all

We have dedicated 'summer series' and 'preparing for Y12' challenge feed questions that you can find by searching these names in the challenge feed.

We also have a range of great podcast resources in the challenge feed across a variety of subjects. Search 'podcast' in the challenge feed to see what ones are available for your subjects.

If you are uncertain about what research you can be doing for each of your subjects, check in with a CoWorks Coach before the school holidays start.



# VISION VISION VISION

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These holidays represent perhaps the last time where you have a lot of freedom outside of term to explore some of the big picture stuff like what you want to achieve in the HSC, what you want to be doing after the HSC and how this ties into your overall vision for the HSC.

The Summer Break is a great time to research university courses which interest you, careers, alternative career paths, overseas study opportunities etc. 2021 is an exciting year not only because it is your final year of schooling but because it is the start of the rest of your life! A life which you have complete control of.

Due to the ongoing automation of systems + globalisation, jobs are being displaced and created at rapid pace. Research has shown that you will have almost 5 career changes in your lifetime, so don't get too caught up in working out what you are going to do for the rest of your life! Spend some time over these school holidays to research emerging jobs in the area of your interest.

Listen to podcasts, read inspirational books, create a vision board, talk to older siblings and friends about their courses studied.

This should be a fun task that takes your mind off your study. Use it as time to research into degrees, places you want to travel and experiences you want to have once you are finished.



*HOLD THE VISION  
trust the process*



# MAJOR WORKS



For those of you doing a major work, these summer holidays are your new best friend! They will help you kickstart, develop and create your major work ideas so well that when Term 1 comes around, you won't lose a wink of sleep worrying. Here are some tips:

## **Tip #1 – Refine & Consolidate**

This term has involved a lot of idea generation, so now it's time to get more specific. Consolidate the ideas that you believe really have potential (both conceptual and practical) and once you are satisfied with the number of ideas (3–5 is good), write a mock proposal for each one. Explain in 200 words what the concept is, and either write (for those Ext 2 English and Ext History students) or create (art, drama, DT, etc...) samples of your works. This will help you narrow down those ideas that will really take off.

## **Tip #2 – Don't forget to research**

While it can be fun to get caught up in the practical side, it's very common for students to return in Term 1 and realise they are far behind on the research aspect of their ideas. You should generally spend an equal amount of time researching as you do creating and brainstorming.

## **Tip #3 – Talk about it**

To friends, parents or mentors.. talking about your idea will help you gain new ideas for your work and understand whether or not the idea has legs. If no one gets it, it's possible you have to have another look. In contrast, they could say – great idea! Have you thought about (x) or (y)? And you have a revelation!

## **Tip #4 – Plan like there's no tomorrow**

Planning is crucial! See Study Tip #2 for details on how to plan effectively and don't forget to use your HSC CoWorks Planning Pad!

## **Tip #5 – Keep the stress to a minimum**

Major works are fun! They're an extension of you, a representation of your interests, passions and thoughts! If you set unrealistic goals this Summer holidays you will work yourself sick, and end up exhausted by your idea.



# HSC COWORKS

BONDI JUNCTION / CHATSWOOD / DEE WHY / MOSMAN / VIRTUAL