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Good Study Skills Lead to Successful HSC, ATAR and Uni Life by John Arthur

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In 2010, there were more than 70,000 students who attempted the Higher School Certificate (HSC) exam. 70, 448 students received a result in at least one HSC course; 65, 146 students were awarded the HSC; and 54, 242 students were eligible to receive the ATAR. There were 107 individual students who received awards for coming first in 108 courses; 7 of these students placed first in two courses.

For 2011, a record number of 72, 391 NSW students have taken the HSC exam. Who will make the All-Rounders List, Distinguished Achievers List, and Top Achievers in Course List? Everyone's anticipation is growing as the release of results approaches on December 14th with ATAR calculators at the ready.

Effective Study Habits: For Better HSC Mark, ATAR and Uni Life

The key to achieving a top score is to "study smart, not hard". If you have been studying effectively, you will definitely achieve a higher mark. Your study habits and skills for the past years are your keys to success, not just in taking the HSC exam but also throughout your tertiary education. You have to follow your own study techniques based on your learning style. There are several ways to study but it's best not to copy other people's studying style because it may work for them, but not for you. So choose the process which works best for you. A good combination of following your schools class schedule, effective self-study habits, efficient time management, and a quality tutoring school like Matrix Education will prepare you for the rigors of school life - and even give you an added edge in discipline and organisation when you eventually join the work force.

Becoming a high achiever takes time, practice and diligence. If you're committed to your goals, you'll have to work for it. Here are some general study techniques which you can adapt or modify to suit your learning style:

â€¢ Study Schedule

o Proper time management matters because every hour counts.

o A well planned schedule saves time as you balance your school, social, personal and study life.

o A good study period is the time of day when you're well rested and alert.

o Don't be afraid to change your schedule if it helps develop your study habits.

o Allocate time in the most productive manner because free time can end up as wasted time.

â€¢ Study Environment

o Choose a comfortable place that's not distracting. Avoid crowded and noisy areas if you're easily distracted by sound and movement around you.

o Avoid getting interrupted during your study period by turning off your phone, your social media applications, and your TV.

â€¢ Study Strategies

o Build effective thinking skills that suit you.

* SQ3R method - Survey what you have to study; Question the what, why, how, when, who and where of your subject matter; Read actively by taking note of the bold, italicised or specially emphasised text, tables, graphs and illustrations; Recite what you have read to recall what you have read and studied; Review what you have covered and go over your notes to clarify points you don't clearly understand.

* Note-taking - Take accurate and concise lecture notes. Jot down key words or phrases instead of long sentences. After the lecture, reorganise them into your own words. Revise your notes accordingly for easy review later on.

Study skills are not developed overnight. But having good study habits will get you through your student life achieving the results you desire, and will set the standard for your future career.

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