



## Guide to Homework and Successful Studying

Assalaamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakhatahu Ya Students,

### 10 Excellent Strategies for Homework Success!

- Write down all assignments as they are given. Immediately place assignments in your assignment notebook. Have one place and one place only where assignments are written down.
- Begin homework at the same time every day.
- Pick a quiet place and sit in a hardback chair at a table or desk. DO NOT try to study on your bed, sprawled out on the couch, etc. There should be no other distractions.
- Never try to study and do other things (listening to a lecture, etc) at the same time. This goes for the CD and Internet.
- Do not answer the telephone during study periods. Someone else who will explain that you are studying and can't be disturbed should take all calls. You can call back later. This includes calls about the homework. Be honest: these calls are social, and rarely assist in getting work done.
- Before you start to study, gather all the things you will need before sitting down. Sharpen your pencils, have plenty of paper, get all your books and homework assignments, and be ready to work.
- After you think you have memorized something, spend more time over-learning it. Under test pressure, it's often more difficult to remember things than you may have thought.
- When you get an assignment that is not due for several days (or even weeks) you must work on it 15 minutes every night starting from the first day you got the assignment until it is done.
- Read for pleasure every day. Pick a favorite book, a Quran, the hadith, or other. Try to challenge yourself.
- Write every day. Get a notebook, and write a page a day. Write about your dreams, your life, what you want to do, what makes you happy, upset, sad, or cry. It doesn't matter just write.

## There is no such thing as not having homework.

Not having homework means a student is underachieving. If a student really thinks there is no homework, any of the following can be used for studying:

- a. Reread any textbook or literature, rework any problems or work sheets, and rewrite any paper or assignment. You may also read ahead or behind in your reading material as much as necessary.
- b. See your teacher/parent/volunteer instructor and ask for ideas on what to study.
- c. Go to the library and check out three books related to your subjects and read those during study time.
- d. Listen to a lecture online in relation to the topic, or locate an article from one of the known Salafi websites only. Ex: [www.spubs.com](http://www.spubs.com) or [www.troid.org](http://www.troid.org) and [www.islam4kids.com](http://www.islam4kids.com)

## A few words about...binders.

Shopping for homeschool supplies is an annual event. Unfortunately, so is organizing the binder. You should do this once a month, at least. Clear out old paper, but only papers you don't need any more. Reorganize old papers. Recycle outdated handouts. Turn in missing homework. Restock yourself with lined paper, pencils, pens, etc.

What works the best? A three-ring binder with divider tabs for each subject. Folders inside to keep papers from getting lost is a good idea, too.

## One last word on...Notecards.

Notecards are a fabulous way to help you study for any test. You can place all the material on the fronts and backs of cards. You can put vocabulary or spelling words on one side, with the answers on the back. Keep the notecards organized by binding with a rubber band or in a card box they have some really cool looking ones at Staples, Wal-Mart, and other stores.

They're also great for taking notes for a research paper, or for when you are taking notes on readings, say for a quiz or for an essay you are going to write.

The great thing about notecards is you can put a separate idea on each card, and then reorganize them in any way inshaAllah.

## And finally...some words about TV

The opinion of the scholars is that TV is Haram! For further clarity you can listen to the lecture "The TV is the shaytain on [www.salaficast.net](http://www.salaficast.net) (request the track).

Personally, I don't think students should watch TV. There's nothing on TV that isn't in a book. "But what about the Discovery Channel?" You're better off going into your backyard, digging up some dirt, and observing what you find. (Smile)

Either way, the less time spent watching TV and the more time spent reading and writing will help you become a better student, and, equally important, a better person.

## Helping Your Student to Study

By Fran Young (edited by THM)

### Preparing for Classes Online

- Do assigned readings. You will recognize terms, ideas when you hear them. This also helps the memory inshaAllah.
- Take notes from readings, to get an understanding of what the dars/talk/or book reading will be about. (Recording is Prohibited at THM)
- Bring needed tools to your work area: pencils, pens, index cards and/or notepaper.
- Adjust your speakers so that they are at a comfortable level for hearing (not too loud, or too low). If you are not wearing a headset make sure there are no more than 8 feet in listening distance inshaAllah.
- Review your previous class notes; try to remember any details of what was said in the last class.
- Record any questions you have, or that you may want to ask later.
- Control daydreaming, and try to prevent other distractions (eating, etc...)
- Participation is expected, ask questions, and reflect upon the meaning.
- Put the specific topic and date on each page.
- Create an index for your notes.

### Why take notes?

- ✓ To study for test, quizzes, worksheets and questionnaires
- ✓ Involves you as an active listener
- ✓ Helps in organizing materials
- ✓ To think critically about information
- ✓ Dars/Reading information may not be in the assigned text
- ✓ To clarify information by reading notes after lecture
- ✓ To remember information

\*Good note taking skills = good grades inshaAllah!

## Types of Lectures

- ✓ The instructor does a page-by-page review of text.
- ✓ Highlight text's main points and add new points; may re-organize main points from text.
- ✓ Assume you have read the text, so cover only new material. Possible review of main points needed.
- ✓ Some combinations of above.

## Class Rules

1. Listen when others talk.
2. Treat others with respect.
3. Don't put down people's work or ideas.
4. Raise your hand when you want to speak.
5. No recording allowed
6. No males over 8 years of age.

Please see other rules posted by UmmRashad

<http://www.freewebs.com/thmsadaqagroup/classchedules.htm>

## Procedures

1. Homework is due the following class time, unless otherwise noted.
2. Homework will be discussed in the room, posted to the yahoo group or will be posted on the web page. If you are absent, check these sources for the assignment, and also check the web page for updates on class schedules. If I, or the volunteers forget to post the homework, email me at [saddiqua\\_as\\_Salafiyyah@yahoo.com](mailto:saddiqua_as_Salafiyyah@yahoo.com) and I'll fix it inshaAllah.
3. If you did not complete the homework for the day it is due, DO NOT give an excuse. You know what you need to do. It is your responsibility.
4. We will always collect assignments on the day they are due. Email it the day before our next class. Or have it ready for us to discuss in class.
5. When you come to class, be prepared.

Barakallahu Feekum

**Saddiqua Muhammad Black bint Elijah/ Discussion Groups – Paltalk Thursday 3:30pm**