Cornell Study Note and Exam Preparation Technique

The followingtechnique is **tried and tested.** It encourages you to process, think, analyse and reconstruct class notes and other information sources into a framework that can be used to answer **all types of HSC exam style questions from multiple-choice to short or extended responses** (see red font).

***REMEMBER THERE IS MORE THAN 1% SEPARATING BAND 5 RESPONSES FROM BAND 6 RESPONSES AND THAT IS HIGHER ORDER THINKING***

**Step 1** Use the syllabus to identify examinable **key concepts**.

**Step** **2** Refer to class notes and other information sources, in the margin or next to concept headings, **create possible exam question/s**. Refer to past HSC papers via the [Board of Studies](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/) website.

**Step 3** Using the Cornell Study Note proforma attached, create study notes to prepare an exam response relating to each syllabus “dot point” or key concept.

**Step 4** Continue this process for each subject.

**Step 5** The best way to **learn** something well is to **teach** it to someone else so enlist the help of a parent, sibling or even the family dog, fish or cat.

**Step 6** Never give up … every little bit of effort now will be rewarded and will **make a difference**.

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| **Statement of the Topic**: *Write an introductory sentence which includes the name, definition, description and general explanation of the key concept or “dot point”.*  ***Band 6 level responses in the HSC will relate the topic to the exam question and demonstrate a thesis, opinion or initial judgement of the concept.***  The practical use of this is to pre-prepare an **INTRODUCTION** for an exam (short/extended) response. | |
| **Key Points/Quick Facts:**  *In point form list key dates, facts, figures, characteristics and examples.*  The practical use of this is to recall key details and facts which may be asked in multiple choice or short response style questions. | **Critical Analysis and In-depth discussion:**  *In this section significant information is summarised and includes thoughtful discussion of the key concepts significant features, issues, relationships, strengths and weaknesses.*  **Band 6 responses will include critical analysis and evaluation of the key concept by demonstrating thought, relevance and judgement which is supported by specifics and examples.**  The practical use of this is to pre-prepare the **BODY** of a short or extended exam response. |
| **Concluding Statement:**  *Write 1-2 sentences which demonstrate critical analysis, evaluation, judgement and an appreciation of the significance of the key concept.*  **Band 6 responses will link the key concept back to the exam question as well as demonstrate the relevance and application of the key concept.**  The practical use of this is to pre-prepare a **CONCLUSION** for short or extended exam response.  Adapted by Michelle Donovan from Cornell Note Taking (Walter Pauk) and ALARM (Max Woods). | |

***This preparation should be done by hand as THE STAMINA to write for up to 3 hours is an essential HSC skill to develop.***