How to Be Successful in School

1. **Know your learning style** – how you learn best. Is it by seeing it, reading, hearing it, drawing it, etc. tailor your learning activities/studying to suit your style. It will be faster and more fun!

2. If you need extra help or would like to better understand a new concept, **ask for help early and often**! Also, use multiple different resources to get a complete understanding of something new! Search online for a credible website, read the textbook, find a video. Not all resources will explain things the exact same way, and you are likely to find an explanation that helps you most.

3. Form a **study group**! This is an excellent way to pool your efforts and interact with other students in your class.

4. Create an **outline/study guide** as a skeleton for your own notes and study sessions.

5. Draw a **picture** of each concept/objective. If you can map it out visually, you’ve gained significant understanding.

6. **Study what you don’t know first**! Then go back and look over stuff you already do. This ensures that you are maximizing your time looking at material you need to master when preparing for tests.

7. **Make flashcards**. Pick out what you think are important concepts to know for each unit and write questions on flashcards to practice. This helps you summarize key ideas and learn from repetition when you see the cards over and over again.

8. **Take thorough notes**. Many people make the mistake of only taking vague notes that only briefly outline what the syllabus asks for. When the statement is define, make sure you also write a sentence or two on why this is the case, how it works, or something extra. Not only will this help you remember and understand it better, but your will not risk losing marks because you could not describe or analyze something in depth.

9. **Learn from your mistakes**! Go over each test and figure out which areas you are strong in and struggle in. This can help you improve your skills for the next test. If one study method isn’t working for you, try something different. Einstein’s definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

10. **Don’t procrastinate**. Study a little bit each night to chunk up the material. Not only does this improve your long-term memory of the material for the final exam, but this helps prevent you from getting overwhelmed, stressed out, and turning in low-quality work. If you cram for a test, that knowledge gets put into your short-term memory and is shortly lost thereafter. This means you have to re-learn all of that material again for the IBO exam.

11. **Take time to have fun**. If you study, study, study, you’ll get burned out on your courses and won’t have the balanced attitude necessary for success.