

LARGS ACADEMY



Learning at Home

Senior Phase S4, S5 and S6

Homework is an essential part of school life and can bring many benefits to pupils' learning. When schools and families work together children do better. It is important that tasks set for learning outside of the classroom help pupils and their families to generate an interest in learning and develop habits which will lead to lifelong learning.

Why is homework important?



Helps the pupil to ...	Helps the teacher to ...	Helps parents to ...
Practise and build on whatever they have learned at school	Check a pupil's understanding of classwork	Find out what their child is doing at school
Prepare for exams by revising what they have learned in class	Plan for future teaching and learning	Get involved in their child's learning
Take more responsibility for their learning	Keep track of a pupil's progress	Support and encourage their child in the learning process
Gain experience of independent learning	Communicate with parents about what their child is learning at school	Communicate with teachers and make comments about homework given
Challenge and develop talents and develop the confidence to overcome problems	Set tasks to consolidate the learning completed in class	
Learn how to organise and manage their time effectively		
Experience a sense of satisfaction and achievement		

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

Thomas A. Edison



Who is involved?

The pupil's role is to	The teacher's role is to ...	The parent's role is to ...
Keep an accurate note of all homework they are given	Set homework that is appropriate and at the right level	Know what the school and teachers expect of their child
Plan ahead	Clearly explain the purpose of homework to pupils	Talk to their child about what they are learning and show an interest in their homework
Make time to do homework	Set realistic deadlines	Let the school know if their child has too little or too much homework
Look for help when experiencing difficulty	Check homework and give prompt and meaningful feedback	Get in touch with their child's guidance teacher with any concerns
Hand homework in on time	Give recognition for effort and work well done	

Homework diary



The pupil's role is to	The teacher's role is to ...	The parent's role is to ...
Bring their homework diary to school every day	Ensure that pupils note down all homework in their diaries	Check their child's homework diary to find out which tasks their child has to complete
Note down every homework task they are given against the date when it is due	Give pupils test / exam dates in advance to note in their diaries	Use homework diary to help their child to prioritise homework tasks
Note down the dates of class tests / exams	Inform guidance teacher if a pupil does not bring their homework diary to class on a regular basis	Communicate with teachers by writing comments in the homework diary
Check their diary every evening to plan homework effectively	Communicate with parents by writing comments in homework diaries	
Buy a replacement if they lose their diary		



Getting help with homework

The pupil's role is to	The teacher's role is to ...	The parent's role is to ...
Ask class teacher for help before homework deadline where possible	Be available to provide additional support with homework tasks	Ensure that their child has an appropriate environment in which to complete homework
Ask for help from parents / brothers/sisters if appropriate	Liaise with Support for Learning where appropriate	Wherever possible, be available to provide help for their child when they are completing homework
Attend lunchtime homework club in school library	Advise pupils of suitable sources of information, e.g. library or websites	Encourage their child to attend supported study
Attend supported study classes where available in S4-S6		

Pupil Views on Learning at Home

How often is homework issued?	Pupils said they were issued with homework more or less every single day S3 pupils receive maths homework every day, except Friday.
Do you make use of your homework diary?	Pupils say they are used regularly and are very useful.
How could we improve the homework diary and is it used by all pupils?	Most pupils are happy with the diaries as they are. Some would like a better layout with more room to write on the space for each day. This may encourage more pupils to make use of the diaries.
How long do you spend doing your homework?	S1-S3 report between 30 minutes to one hour each night is spent on homework tasks.
Where do you do your homework?	Some complete homework in the school library at Homework Club, but most do their work at home.
Do you attend homework club after school? If yes, how often and is it a good place to work?	Those who attend Homework Club most regularly say it's a good place to work because it's friendly and there are S6 pupils available to help most nights.
Do teachers have high expectations in terms of the amount and type of homework set at each stage?	Pupils were confident about the amount of support they received from their teachers when they were struggling with homework, but they did feel they were being challenged or 'pushed' to work hard and do well.
How is homework assessed and feedback given?	Comments in jotters were well received, especially where teachers were pleased with their work. This made pupils feel good. If a piece of homework wasn't done well teachers expected pupils to spend more time working at home and advised them to listen more carefully in class.
Do your parents ask you about homework? Do they ask to see your work or do they ever help you with work at home? Are parents ever asked to sign your homework?	Parents will help with homework if a pupil has a problem, but most pupils do their homework on their own most of the time. In some subjects pupils are asked to get parents to sign their work, but most said this was not usual.
Do you do any homework on-line? Would you like more opportunities for homework to be done on-line? (Use of Glow and iCloud?) Could we set up a folder on the iCloud to provide materials for pupils who are not able to attend?	Very little is done on line at present, although science does use EDMODO. Pupils would like us to promote EDMODO more and welcomed greater use of the iCloud in future. They said that very few pupils would not be able to access a computer at home and computers in school library are available for them every day after school too.
Do Guidance teachers talk about homework and the importance of developing good homework habits?	Pupils would like more time to talk about home learning and would like advice about how to study.
Should we organise homework workshops for parents?	Most pupils thought their parents were too busy to attend a workshop.



ART & DESIGN

Types of homework tasks

- Extensive work on practical unit and exam folio
- Preparation for written work (critical analysis)

Frequency

- Homework is issued weekly

Important deadlines

- December – all unit work completed
- March – folio completion deadline

How parents can help?

- Encourage working at home and encourage attendance at supported study and Easter School

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Types of homework task - Design & Manufacture at National 4 and 5

- Homework is on the design process, graphics, knowledge of the materials tools and the processes associated with the materials used in design tasks – wood, metal and plastic. It can be a written or drawing task.

Types of homework task - Graphic Communication at National 4 and 5

- Homework is based on computing, CAD drawing, orthographic drawing, pictorial drawing, building drawing, rendering and presentation techniques. It can be a written or drawing task.

Types of homework task - Woodworking Skills at National 4 and 5

- Homework is on the knowledge of the materials, tools and the processes associated with working with wood. It is normally a written task.

Frequency/ completion time of homework task

- Pupils normally get two pieces of homework each week. Each exercise will take about 30 minutes to complete and pupils normally have until the next class contact to complete it.

Important deadlines /assessment dates

- There are unit assessments throughout the course

How parents can help?

- Homework is an important part of the coursework and it is important that it is completed and returned on time. Parents are asked to sign all work carried out.

Design & Manufacture – Higher

- Homework is on the design process, design factors, aesthetics, ergonomics, materials, industrial manufacturing processes, manufacturing systems and graphics. It will be a written or drawing task or a combination of both.
- Homework should take about 40 minutes three to four times per week.
- Pupils normally get one day to complete the homework.
- There are unit assessments throughout the course.

Graphic Communication - Higher

- Homework is on computing, CAD drawing, orthographic drawing, pictorial drawing, building drawing, sections, drawing conventions and standards, rendering and presentation techniques.
- Depending on the task, the homework could take from 30 min to 1-2 hours to complete. Again depending on the task pupils could get one day to one week to complete the homework.
- There are unit assessments throughout the course.

ENGLISH

Types of homework task

- Reading and answering questions about class texts
- Researching and rehearsing for Talk assessments
- In S4, researching and writing up the Added Value Unit (N4 Pupils)
- Developing exam skills
- Redrafting Folio pieces (N5, Higher and Advanced Higher pupils)
- Past and specimen paper practice
- Regular revision of literature notes, close reading skills and textual analysis skills

Frequency

- All homework to be completed as required by the class teacher

Important deadlines

- Deadlines will be issued by the class teacher and recorded in homework diaries
- Unit Assessment dates will be issued by the class teacher and recorded in homework diaries
- N5, Higher and Advanced Higher prelims are in January, with regular progress reviews ongoing throughout the session

How parents can help?

- Encourage your son or daughter to develop a routine for completing homework, and sign each assignment.
- Check that your child understands the task and discuss ideas, but encourage him or her to complete it alone.
- Check his or her homework diary regularly – at this level pupils often benefit from support in how best to manage their workload
- Make quality newspapers readily available, as hard copy or online

ENTERPRISE AND IT

Types of homework task - Administration and IT

- Pupils are encouraged to read over theory booklet to relate to the topic they are studying (throughout session) and includes looking over class work to consolidate what has been learned
- Specific homework questions are issued weekly to consolidate knowledge and understanding
- Revisions questions on word processing theory layout questions

Frequency

- At various stages in the year there are written word processing theory questions which normally require 10-15 minutes for Higher
- Homework will normally be 5-10 minutes for National 5
- Homework is issued on a weekly basis

Important deadlines

- December – N5 and Higher Communication in Administration Unit to be completed.
- January – N4 Unit Assessments, N5 and Higher Prelims
- February – N5 Administration Practices Unit and Higher Administrative Theory and Practices Unit
- N5 Assignment on-going throughout February/March
- February - N5 and Higher Administration IT solutions Units

How parents can help?

- Check the use of the homework diary and discuss homework tasks with their child
- Encourage pupils to have good homework habits and meet deadlines
- Lunch clubs are an ideal way for students to receive extra support for homework and to catch up on work which may have been missed due to absence

Types of homework task - Business Management

- Extended response
- Read study notes
- Follow current news items relevant to subject
- Complete sections of work started in class

Frequency

- Homework is issued on a weekly basis

Important deadlines

- Higher Internal unit assessments October, November and February
- N4/N5 unit assessments in September, November, January and February

How parents can help?

- Check the use of the homework diary and discuss homework tasks with their child
- Encourage pupils to have good homework habits and meet deadlines

Types of homework task - Computing

- Written tasks, including computational thinking
- Research tasks
- Tasks designed to help prepare for assessments

Frequency

- National 4/5 classes are issued with 20 formal homework exercises each session
- Some research tasks and pre-assessment tasks are spread over several weeks
- Higher and Advanced Higher classes are issued with 30 formal written tasks (10 per unit)

Important deadlines

- January prelim

How parents can help?

- Check the use of the homework diary and discuss homework tasks with their child
- Encourage pupils to have good homework habits and meet deadlines
- Lunch clubs are an ideal way for students to receive extra support for homework and to catch up on work which may have been missed due to absence

GEOGRAPHY

Types of homework task

- Preparation for frequent 'Quick Tests' on key areas of the course
- Practice SQA past paper questions
- Graphic display of gathered field information, using internet sources such as 'Create A Graph'
- Analysis of Ordnance Survey maps supplied by the department or through the use of 'Bing Maps' online
- Creation of spider diagrams and 'Mind Maps' to help with general revision and to develop long-term strategies for studying
- Extended projects on topics of interest and relevance
- Production of memory cards or flashcards sets to summarise areas of the course
- Research using the internet in order to add specific case-study detail to class notes
- Prepare single A4 sheets of summarised information on key topics
- Production of larger summary displays such as A3 memory diagrams
- 'Added Value' field assignments as part of the course assessment requirements
- Extended folio preparation in Advanced Higher
- In-depth preparation for Unit Assessments

Frequency

- Tasks are normally weekly for all year groups
- Projects are given extended deadlines of normally three weeks
- 'Quick Tests' can have very short deadlines such as one or two days
- 'Added Value' assignments and folio work have specific deadlines set by the department for all year groups in order to comply with SQA deadlines

Important deadlines

- Unit Assessment dates are given to pupils two to three weeks in advance to allow sufficient preparation time
- January prelims for all senior year groups
- 'Added Value' assignments and extended folio work will be given very specific deadlines in order to meet with SQA requirements. These are normally around the end of March for National 4/5 and Higher, and the end of April for Advanced Higher

How parents can help?

- Encourage pupils to study, prepare well and regularly for key assessments
- Ask pupils for key dates for Unit Assessments
- Track pupil progress with the National 4/5 and Higher 'added value' assignments
- Help pupils to develop the skills of summary work, use of mnemonics and acronyms, memory/flashcards and other memory tools vital to success

HISTORY

Types of homework tasks

- Past paper exercises – skills practice and extended responses(essays)
- Finishing classwork

Frequency

- National 4 and National 5 classes will practice past paper questions on a fortnightly basis
- Higher classes will practice essay and skills on a weekly or fortnightly basis and will be completing note taking exercises weekly

Important deadlines

- Unit tests – October and March
- Prelim – January
- Assignment – February

How parents can help?

- Proof reading essays and question pupils to test their understanding
- Encourage pupils to re-write class notes
- Encourage pupils to undertake extended reading

HOME ECONOMICS

Types of homework task

- Preparation for practical lessons
- Practicing dishes at home prior to assessments
- Use skills learned in class to develop confidence and competence

Frequency

- Preparation for practical lessons 2-3 times per week
- Making dishes at home 1-2 times per week
- Using skills regularly to improve and build confidence

Important deadlines

- practical assessments are flexible but 2-4 week notice period given

How parents can help?

- Assist with providing ingredients and containers for practical lessons
- Prompt pupils to bring equipment and to return it back home
- Support and encourage practice sessions at home to develop kitchen skills

MATHEMATICS

Types of homework task

- consolidation of lesson outcomes
- review of past learning

Frequency

- Daily: as a rule of thumb, homework will be given every time a pupil comes to maths including over the weekend. This could be self-assessed or peer marked.
- Two/three times a term: homework will be handed in to be marked by the teacher

Important deadlines

- Dates agreed on school and departmental calendar and issued to pupils in advance of assessments

How parents can help?

- initials/signature beside homework in jotters to show they've been involved/helped
- homework diaries initialled/signed
- prompt return of analysis grids, tear-off slips on letters, response to information texts
- physically checking the schoolbag/diary/jotter

MODERN LANGUAGES

Types of homework task

- Homework tasks include learning the spelling of topic based vocabulary in the Modern Language, extended excerpts of translation from the Modern Language into English and vice-versa and detailed reading comprehension

Frequency

- Pupils will receive homework every time they come to Modern Languages throughout the Senior Phase

Important deadlines

- S4 exams in October
- S4/5 Prelims in January

How parents can help?

- Parents can help by encouraging pupils to spend between 15 and 30 minutes on homework and to increase their study time in preparation for important exams

MODERN STUDIES

Types of homework tasks

- Skills practice and extended responses(essays)
- Finishing classwork
- Keeping up-to-date with current affairs (especially on topics related to the course)

Frequency

- National 4 and National 5 classes will practice past paper questions on a fortnightly basis
- Higher classes will practice essay and skills on a fortnightly basis and will be completing note taking exercises weekly
- Pupils must watch the news or read a quality newspaper on a daily basis

Important deadlines

- Unit tests – October and March
- Prelim – January
- Assignment – February

How parents can help?

- Proof reading essays and question pupils to test their understanding
- Encourage pupils to re-write class notes
- Encourage pupils to undertake extended reading
- Discuss current affairs at home

MUSIC

Types of homework tasks

- Concept and unit assessment revision
- Composition tasks
- Regular practice

Frequency

- Concept tests are completed monthly
- Practice must be completed on a daily basis

Important deadlines

- Unit tests each term

How parents can help?

- Parents should ensure practice schedule is followed

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Types of homework task

- Improving personal performance in activities
- Practice questions for the *Single Performance 'bookends'*
- Preparing for the *Single Performance*

- Group work to prepare for *Factors Impacting Performance* presentations
- Practice questions for the *Factors Impacting Performance* booklet.
- Completing *Factors Impacting Performance* booklet
- Answering specimen questions for prelim and final exam on *Factors Impacting Performance*

Frequency

- Preparing for the *Single Performance* and *Improving Personal Performance* is ongoing and pupils are expected to work on this as often as they can
- Generally for other homework one task is given out once a week for completion by the following week, but this can vary depending on individual progress through the course

Important deadlines

- Higher *Factors Impacting Performance* booklet – complete by end of December
- *Single Performance* in Higher and N5 – as soon as possible and no later than the end of March
- N5 *Factors Impacting Performance Portfolio* – complete by end of January
- N4 and N5 *Factors Impacting Performance* booklet – complete by end of January (Portfolio and N5 booklet will be completed at the same time)

RMPS

Types of homework task

- Certificated classes complete tasks on the skills of Critical Thinking and Epistemology
- Tasks are normally written, but on occasion will take the form of a presentation

Frequency

- Formal homework is given once per week and more frequently in preparation for unit assessments and prelim exams

Important deadlines

- Certificated Classes have prelims in January and unit assessments by arrangement (dates will be known in advance)
- National 4 Added Value Unit completed by March

How parents can help?

- Ensure pupils are devoting adequate time to completing homework tasks by asking about the tasks to be completed and encouraging pupils to discuss the issues covered in class

SCIENCE

Types of homework task

- Research background to science topics
- Revise notes and learning outcomes
- Use SQA Past Papers
- Read case studies
- There will be formal homework tasks from Homework Booklet
- Complete lab reports and data handling exercises

Frequency

- The expectation is a minimum of two weekly 30 minute sessions spent on homework in each science subject
- In Physics there are weekly formal written homework exercises
- Following every lesson pupils should read over the work completed that day

Important deadlines

- These vary throughout the year, depending on the rotation of topics and availability of equipment.
- Assessment for Units are carried out on completion of each SQA Unit
- Deadlines for investigations in March and April – pupils are notified of dates in advance

How parents can help?

- Enquire about homework and sign homework as appropriate
- Encourage the use of EDMODO
- Complete feedback evaluations with formative comments
- Outcome 1 and Short Report must be completed before a Unit can be marked as passed.
- Encourage pupils to maintain jotters and notes tidily and safely so that all work is available for revision and further study

SCOTTISH STUDIES

Types of homework tasks

- Research
- Note taking
- Skills in individual courses – history, modern studies, English, etc.

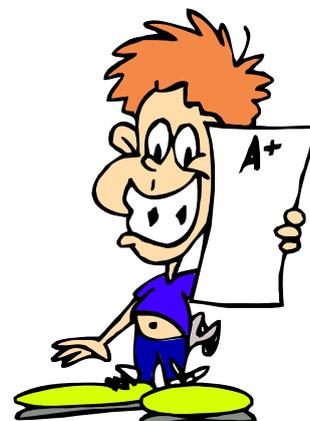
Important deadlines

- Scotland in focus deadline for assignment is March

How parents can help?

- Discuss the pupil's chosen area of study

h	helps you to understand better
o	opens your mind
m	multiplies your chances of success
e	encourages you to work on your own
w	will make lessons easier
o	organises your thoughts
r	revises what you have done in class
k	keeps you motivated



Produced by the Largs Academy Pupil Council to help motivate pupils to work at home.