



Mastering Social Studies

Every class and most teachers have some special requirements to be successful. To achieve, it is important to adjust your study so you can learn the most and use your time well. While there is no guarantee that any strategy or approach will be effective, all subjects do have some characteristics that make them different. The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand some of these characteristics for Social Studies and to study systematically using effective skills.

Characteristics of Social Studies

The social sciences attempt to describe orderly relations in social interactions. In this way, social sciences are like the natural sciences. There are many relationships that are not as obvious as the difference between plants and animals. As a result, social scientists often use theories to develop and explain the relationships they describe.

Social scientist attempt to make sense of everyday events by identifying themes and explanations. To understand their proposals you should be able to apply them to events you observe. An important part of making social sciences make sense is to use these ideas in everyday life.

For example, historians often use themes to explain patterns of policy or events. Themes like individual rights or taxation policies can be used to examine local, regional, and national policies currently in place. Below we look at using systematic study with social studies for in-class and home study learning.



STUDY SMART

Home Social Studies Learning

PREPARE

- A. Set goals for your study
- B. Consider issues and topics presented in class
- C. Review your notes
- D. Survey your text as a first step in reading
- E. Select a study strategy

ACT

- A. Read actively using systematic study
- B. Make notes of main points **AND** relationships as you read
- C. Emphasize themes by looking for consistent concepts in events, theories,

and explanations

D. Discuss ideas frequently with classmates and others; apply issues to current events

E. Relate ideas to your life and what you know and are doing

F. Summarize frequently as you read to emphasize main points

TEST

A. Test yourself by asking questions

B. Summarize main points from memory

C. Write an outline from memory

D. Discuss ideas with others and challenge them

E. Make sure you meet your goals



In-Class Social Studies Learning

PREPARE

- A. Review your notes from class on the previous day
- B. Set goals for yourself
- C. Predict topics to be covered
- D. Generate reasons why the class and information are interesting and useful to know

ACT

- A. Listen actively to follow main points
- B. Take **good** notes making sure you record main points
- C. Review regularly as you listen

D. Relate main points to each other regularly

E. Summarize the main points in your mind

TEST

A. Upgrade your notes

B. Summarize the main points mentally

C. Review all material using your notes and text book

D. Relate ideas to your current issues and life

E. Discuss topics and issues with others