

# 2023 Grade 12 learners



This is your opportunity to make your dreams come true

Grade 12 is a challenging and demanding year for learners. You need extra support and good advice. This booklet seeks to motivate and encourage current Grade 12 learners by providing the success stories of some of the learners who did well in past National Senior Certificate Examinations. These learners share their stories by first giving their backgrounds, highlighting the strategies that they used to

ensure good results, and then providing words of encouragement and motivation.

It is hoped that, upon reading the stories of these successful NSC candidates, you will be encouraged and convinced that, irrespective of your situation and the challenges that you face, you can achieve success if you work harder and smarter.



## Reading and Learning



### The SQ3R Method of Textbook Study

The SQ3R method is a proven, step-by-step strategic approach to learning and studying from textbooks. Why is it successful? Because it helps you to discover the important facts and ideas that are contained in your textbook, and master and retain that information so that you are prepared for an examination.

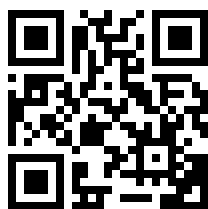
SQ3R is an abbreviation to help you remember the steps and to make references to it simpler. The symbols stand for the steps followed in using the method: Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review. A description of each of these steps is given below:

These five steps, when applied to textbook assignments, will help you in making your study time more efficient and effective. While this method will take time and practice to master, once it is learned and applied, it will no longer be necessary to re-read textbook chapters. The added benefit of using the SQ3R Method is that often you will find your own questions on a test. Because many instructors use the textbook as an outline for their courses, test questions will be coming from the same source as yours. As you review your notes and texts, you will be able to predict and prepare answers for many exam questions.

#### 1. SURVEY: (before class)

Read the following: This survey should take no more than 10-25 minutes, even on the longest chapter. The purpose of surveying the chapter is to get a general idea of what it is going to be about, what kind of information the author gives, how many sub-topics the information is broken down into, and how much time you will have to spend reading it.

- ➊ Chapter Title
- ➋ Introduction
- ➌ Objectives
- ➍ Vocabulary
- ➎ Summary
- ➏ Review questions
- ➐ Boldface headings
- ➑ Graphics and their accompanying captions



4 strategies to master  
Reading with understanding  
<https://goo.gl/LzegQI>

#### 2. QUESTION: (before class)

Turn each boldfaced heading into a question by using one of the following words: who, what, where, when, why, or how.

- ➊ The reason for creating a question out of each heading is to set a purpose for reading the material in more detail. When you are reading to find the answer to a specific question, you are reading actively.

#### 3. READ: (after class)

Actively read the section of the text accompanying the heading for an answer to the question you asked yourself in step 2. The answer will usually be made up of the main idea(s) of the paragraph(s) and the supporting details. Read the section to find the answer. The purpose of reading is to find the answer to your question.

#### 4. RECITE: (after class)

Recite the answer to each question to yourself. Put the answer into your own words, or rephrase the author's words. Be sure that you can recall the answer, not just recognize the information as correct. Write the questions in your notebook along with a few key words or phrases that summarize the answer. The purpose of doing this is to help you think about and understand what you have read. When you rewrite or rephrase what you read, your comprehension and retention will improve.

#### 5. REVIEW: (before next class)

To review, cover the answers and ask yourself the questions. If you can't answer the question, look at your notes and test yourself again. Once you are sure you know and understand the question and answer, check it off. The purpose of reviewing is to help you prepare for the eventual test. Remember that very few people read textbooks for pleasure; they are read to acquire information and to remember and apply it. Reviewing helps you remember the information.

## Refiloe Boikarabelo Bonolo Moshata

Langenhoven  
Gimnasium 2020

Personally, I'll describe matric as a journey. A long, difficult journey that consists of learning and unlearning but most importantly, forgiveness. It is difficult, but it can be rewarding.

Each time it gets difficult and you feel as though it is not worth it, remember why you started. Close your eyes. Think of each and every single thing that you'd like to have, whether it's that big mansion in Sandton or that yellow Lamborghini Urus. Think of the designer bags and shoes that you want to be able to buy one day. Think of the lives of people that you'll have a positive impact on. Open your eyes. Come to the realization that YOU are the only person standing between the present and the future and YOU are the only one who can help yourself reach all your goals and most importantly, start working.

Everything that I do stems from self love so it is also important that the very same way I believe that I don't deserve mediocre love from other people is the same way I believe that I don't deserve to give myself mediocre love. The best way to show myself that I love myself is to always do my best so that when I'm done and I get a chance to look back, I'll be satisfied knowing that I did my best and gave it my all.

My advice to you is:

1. **Start working.** It doesn't matter where, just start. It can be with something that you feel as though it's a waste of time, but I promise you, when the workload starts to increase rapidly, you'll be very glad that you did that work when you did it.
2. **Find a study method that works for you.** If you haven't found a study method that works for you yet, explore the different study methods and find and choose one that works perfectly for you.
3. **Give yourself enough time to study.** Always be prepared to study at least two days before your exam/test, this will give you enough time to figure out what you struggle the most with and be able to revise it over and over again.
4. **Learn to forgive yourself.** I can't even count the amount of times that I've gotten a test back and realised how I made the silliest mistakes. It's okay to make mistakes, learn from them and forgive yourself.
5. **Be kind to yourself.** Being kind to yourself links perfectly to forgiving yourself. Be mindful of the things you say to yourself or think about yourself when you get that one specific sum wrong. Motivate yourself. Tell yourself that it is okay and you can try again. Don't feel guilty when you can't study, whether it's because you're ill or because



you are just really tired, understand that it is okay to feel like that.

6. **Always be willing to fall,** but the most important thing is to stand up, dust yourself off and try to get to the end. Whether you'll limp or crawl to the end, just get there.
7. **Prioritize.** You will have to learn to prioritize. You won't always have to watch movies or visit your friends because you have to study. Make sure you have friends who understand your priorities.
8. **Rest.** It is very important to rest when you feel like you're running on empty. I won't lie and tell you to get eight hours of sleep, because I also don't get so much sleep, but rest. You can't pour from an empty cup.
9. **Self-care is must.** Whether it's watching Real Housewives of Atlanta on Friday afternoons, putting on a face mask or playing soccer with your friends, do something that will make your soul happy. You deserve a break every now and then.

Remember, you are more than capable to do this. Believe in yourself.

## Nathaniel Hector

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The final examinations are quickly approaching and many matriculants are desperate to achieve the best result that they can. Although there is no way to guarantee a 100% aggregate on all your final papers, there are many tips you can apply to get close to that 100%.



### General tips:

1. **Do not only study the night before the exam:**  
If you have not begun studying for your exams, start now. Our brains need time to process and recollect information.
2. **Get enough sleep:**  
Make sure you get enough sleep every day. There is no purpose in studying all night and being half asleep throughout the actual exam.
3. **Ask for help:**  
If you are struggling with something, reach out to a friend or teacher for help. It never hurts to ask for help.
4. **PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!**  
No matter the subject, do past papers to not only learn work you might not have known, but also to get used to the format of the paper. The internet can help you a lot as there are many explanations regarding the subject matter on sites such as YouTube.

### Studying environment and study session tips:

1. **Remove possible distractions while studying.**

Switch off your phone. Notify the members of your household that you are studying to minimise disturbances.

### 2. Remember to take breaks:

Take breaks between your study sessions. For example, a 50-minute study session and a 10-minute break then repeat. DO NOT use your phone or watch TV during your break. Have a toilet break and drink a glass of water? Distractions will make the break never end.

### 3. Study with a study group:

You will be able to assist each other when someone struggles and studying with someone else makes it more enjoyable.

### 4. Study at a designated area:

This will help you get into “study mode” more easily.

### 5. Do not study in bed:

Studying in a comfortable area where you often relax can make you more likely to lose focus. You should preferably study seated at a chair or desk

### Subject specific techniques:

#### Factual work:

These are questions which require you to understand and memorise large amounts of information. For example: Business and Economics.

- Highlight key words and phrases
- Study possible essay questions
- Write the subject matter in your own words
- Use study tricks such as mnemonics to remember information. (ROY-G-BIV: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet)
- Understand what the work is about. It makes it easier than to just memorise it.
- Make summaries of the most important content.

#### Application work:

These are questions which test your understanding by applying methods or formulas. For example, math.

- Practice past papers and work from your textbooks.
- Check your understanding of something by explaining it to a classmate or teacher.

Best of luck for the road ahead.

## Zoë Long

### The Road to Success

We all know Queen’s famous lines, “under pressure, pushing down on me” and one is certainly feeling the pressure as matric students. The big mantra one hears about matric is to work hard and consistently, eating healthily and doing regular exercise and taking no breaks. While these are all good seeds of advice, they leave no room for growth, life experience or even any room to breathe.

One’s final year is on one level about hard work and commitment, not just academically but in your external



activities - a time to shine. However it is important to leave room to breathe amongst the high intensity year ahead of one. The year is about creating a memorable life experience that adds to one’s character and who they are as a person. It allows for both failures and achievements and entails a year which one will never forget. One’s final year is on one hand, a year which a student almost doesn’t look forward to because of the immense amount of pressure forced on to one and the high expectations which follow. It is labelled as the year which determines the rest of your life, yet you need not know all the answers. Focus on the here and now, after all the way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time - through perseverance and courage.

“I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen.”- Ernest Hemingway

Listening is an instrumental factor in life, specifically when it comes to learning and gaining life experience. Take into the account the advice given to you by parents and teachers to work hard and make sacrifices. However, one needs to listen over and above these role models to oneself, one’s physical and mental state of mind. Success is not a state of doing, but rather a state of mind and therefore empowers one to achieve and create a life experience which enables growth and self-love.

“Change is inevitable. Change is constant” - Benjamin Disraeli

Change, a word connotated with negativity and anxiety. It alludes to distant and unhappy memories. Yet, this is quite the opposite of one’s matric year. This change is not a negative one, but a positive opportunity allowing for character development and life experience. Yes, some changes might be difficult and one will face many challenges throughout their final year. Who knows, there might possibly be another world crisis, like the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. All worrisome thoughts aside, think for a moment of all the positive change which has occurred in one’s life leading to new opportunities for growth and a memorable life experience and therefore, the positive changes which await amidst one’s final year before that so-called “sweet freedom”.

If there is anything which should be instilled in one’s mind, it should be that yes, change is inevitable and it is constant. However change does not mean a bad ending or a consequential downfall, it often leads to growth. Whether that be in oneself, one’s academics or one’s state of mind. One should not fear the change and challenges which lie ahead, but rather embrace them and face them head on like a bear in the forest.

# Making a career choice ...

## Do you know...

- What you would like to become one day?
- What career you plan to pursue after school?
- What subjects you will need to study for this career?
- Where you will study?
- How you will pay for your studies?

## Are you able to...

- Plan well for your future?
- Make informed decisions about a career?
- Make good choices?

## LET THE WCED ASSIST YOU TODAY....

This book is filled with information on FET subjects and possible careers that can be pursued if you have selected these subjects.

The subjects that you have selected can lead you to a variety of career fields within which you will find a multitude of careers to select from, amongst others:

**Languages and Communication:** editor, writer, Interpreter, journalist, translator

**Visual Arts & Design:** art teacher, artist, advertising, clothing designer, dental technician

**Performing Arts:** actor, comedian, disc jockey, make-up artist, television producer

**Marketing and sales:** advertising, entrepreneur, fashion buyer, tourism and travel

**Management and Planning:** administrative officer, event manager, project manager

**Financial Management:** accountant, auditor, treasurer, credit controller, broker

**Clerical and Secretarial:** secretary, receptionist, data capturer, proof reader

**Plants and Animals:** tour leader, agriculturist, biologist, horticulturist, zoologist

**Sport:** biokineticist, sport coach, fitness instructor, personal trainer, referee

**Trades:** agricultural technician, carpenter, coppersmith, locksmith, welder

**Engineering:** air traffic controller, draughtsman, civil engineer, mechanical engineer

**Sciences:** biochemist, cartographer, chemist, physicist, soil scientist, nuclear scientist

**Computers:** business systems analyst, computer hardware/ software engineer

**Health Sciences:** dentist, dermatologist, internist, medical doctor, psychiatrist



**Health Support Services:** dietician, health worker, nurse, occupational therapist

**Social Sciences:** ambassador, editor, historian, political scientist, social worker

**Law:** lawyer, advocate, investigator, foreign affairs officer, public protector

**Education and Support Services:** au pair, career counselor, teacher, librarian

**Creative Services:** caterer, chef, engraver, hairdresser, hotel manager, sign-writer

**General Services:** air hostess, barber, chauffeur, cleaner, meter reader, taxi driver

**Law Enforcement and protection Services:** policeman, soldier, traffic officer

Find a career that will be compatible with the subjects that you have chosen. If you are not sure whether your interests and talents will guide you to a career, it is important that you complete the interest questionnaire or self-explorative exercise that is part of the information on the PACE Career Centre's CD or in the PACE Career Directory that is available at your school. It is important that you research the careers in order to find answers to all your questions.

The interest questionnaire allows you to reply YES/NO to 105 random interest questions, regarding likes/dislikes, talents, interests, personality, etc.. After completing the entire questionnaire, a profile is shown of the career fields that you could be interested in, based on your replies. The career directory gives a list of 21 career fields, but there could be more. The career fields are arranged from most interested to least interested. Now you may research the field to determine which careers holds your interest most, and then research specific careers.

Speak to your Life Orientation teachers at school. They will be able to assist you with more information on possible careers.