

Reading text 3

Reading Activity 2

A. The title of the text below is “**Studying: Then and Now**”. From this title, what is your guess regarding the content of the text?

List of predictions below:

- i)
- ii)
- iii)

B. Take 2 minutes to Skim through the text and answer the following questions.

Questions	Answers
1. What is the central idea of the text?	Ans. In this text, the author’s last name and year in a bracket, explains/suggests/focuses on
2. How many old study habits has the writer reformed in college?	
3. Which paragraph describes a writer's study sessions before important exams in school?	

Studying: Then and Now

[P1] One June day, I staggered into a high school classroom to take my final exam in United States History IV. Bleary-eyed from an all-night study session, I checked my “cheat sheets”, which were taped inside the cuffs of my long-sleeved shirt. I had made my usual desperate effort to cram the night before, with the usual dismal results I had made it only to page seventy-five of a four-hundred-page textbook. My high school study habits, obviously, were a mess but in college, I have made an attempt to reform my note-taking, studying, and test-taking skills.

[P2] Taking notes is one thing I have learned to do better since high school days. I used to lose interest and begin doodling, drawing Martians, or seeing what my signature looked like. Now, however, I try not to let my mind wander, and I pull my thoughts back into focus when they begin to go fuzzy. In high school, my notes often looked like something written in Arabic. In college, I have learned to use a semi-print writing style that makes my notes understandable. When I look over my high school notes, I could not understand them. There would be a word like “Reconstruction,” then a big blank, then the word “important.”

Weeks later, I had no idea what Reconstruction was or why it was important. I have since learned to write down connecting ideas, even if I have to take the time to do it after class.

[P3] Ordinary during-the-term studying is another area where I have made changes. In high school, I let reading assignments go. I told myself that I would have no trouble catching up on two hundred pages during a fifteen-minute bus ride to school. College courses have taught me to keep pace with the work. Otherwise, I feel as though I am sinking into a quicksand of unreal material. When I finally read the high school assignment, my eyes would run over the words but my brain would be plotting how to get the car for Saturday night. Now, I use several techniques that force me to really concentrate on my reading.

[P4] In addition to learning how to cope with daily work, I have also learned to handle study sessions for big tests. My all-night study sessions in high school were experiments in self-torture. Around 2:00 am, my mind, like a soaked sponge, simply stopped absorbing things. Now, I space out exam study sessions over several days. That way, the night before can be devoted to an overall review rather than raw memorizing. Most importantly, though, I have changed my attitude towards tests. In high school, I thought tests were mysterious things with completely unpredictable questions. Now, I ask instructors about the kinds of questions that will be on the exam, and I try to “psych out” which areas or facts instructors are likely to ask about. These practices really work, and for me they have taken much of the fear and mystery out of tests.

[P5] Since I have reformed, note-taking and studying are not as tough as they once were. Moreover, one benefit makes the work worthwhile: my college grade sheets look much different from the **red-splotched ones** of my high school days.

C. Read the following questions and answer them in 3 minutes by SCANNING the text.

Questions	Answers
1. What are the benefits of taking notes?	
2. Which practices make exams less scary?	
3. In the last paragraph, what does the writer mean by “ red-splotched ones ”?	

D. Annotate the text above using annotation symbols and write marginal notes.

E. Answer the following questions.

1. Do you think that students should follow effective study techniques at university level? Why or why not? Explain your opinion with reasons and examples.
2. According to you, is it worthwhile to spend some extra time on the class notes after the class? Justify your opinion with reason and example.