

SEVEN TOP TIPS SELF-STUDY

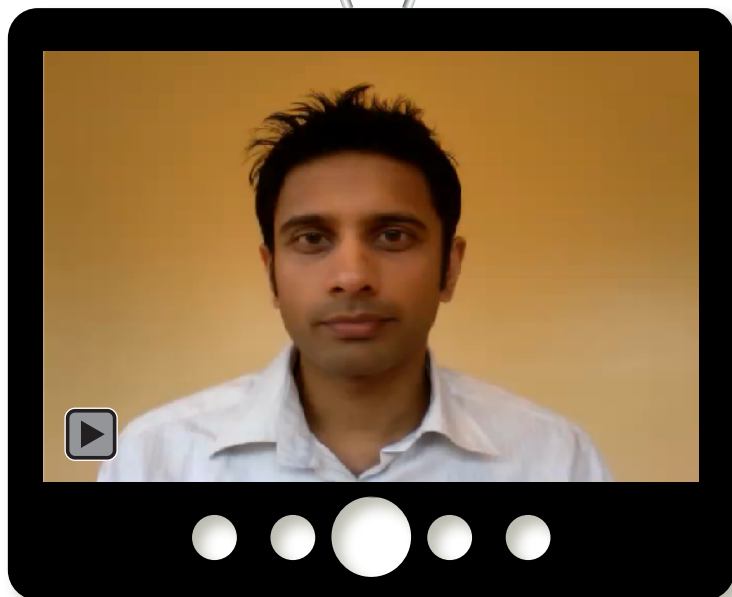
TRYING OUT SOME SIMPLE TECHNIQUES WILL HELP IMPROVE YOUR EXAM PREPARATION

HOW TO PASS

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1 Make use of support

Make use of any distance learning support you have. Some of you will be distance-learning candidates so will have access to remote support from tutors – use it.

2 Use the latest materials

Sometimes students studying at home will use second-hand study materials, which may be out of date. The syllabus for some exams changes so you must make sure you have the latest materials – or at least know and have access to whatever material has changed.

3 Find a peer group

One of the most effective ways to learn is to have a peer group of people who are all trying to achieve the same goals. Find friends or people you may know and regularly meet up or communicate to support each other through your exams.

4 Be disciplined

Be disciplined in your studies. It's very easy to want to take extra breaks, or not really push yourself hard when studying at home. You must focus on the reasons why you are taking the exams and use those and strict time management to keep yourself disciplined.



5 Immerse yourself in a topic

When you study at a college you will concentrate on one topic or paper for days at a time. The reason is that the human brain learns best when immersed in learning. Use this principle and focus on one topic or one paper for hours at a time. It may get boring, but it works.

6 Do practice questions

It can be very easy to become lazy about doing practice questions at home. You can fool yourself into thinking that just because you have read something you know it and don't have to test yourself. You must do practice questions as you study.

7 Recreate exam conditions

In order to perform well in the actual exam you must get your body and mind trained to be able to cope with the physical and mental pressure. So make sure you do mock exams under exam conditions including sticking to time limits, using a small desk, sitting continuously for just over three hours, writing neatly, etc. The better you can recreate exam conditions the better you will do in the real exam.

Visit www.pass1sttime.com/accareport to download a special free report on passing your ACCA exams first time.



VIDEO SCRIPT – GETTING MOTIVATED

'I've successfully completed finance qualifications through self study, so I hope some of my advice can help you to do the same.

The main challenge most students have is around motivation to put the hours of studying in. When there's no tutor to watch over you like there is in class it can be very easy not to study and not push yourself.

Key techniques you can use here to get yourself to study, sometimes at the end of a full day of work, include:

- ▣ Focusing on the reasons why you are taking the exams – think of the bigger picture for you, your family, loved ones, now and in the future.
- ▣ Considering the pain of failing and the impact this could have on you emotionally and financially. This should help you start studying. But once you have started, focus on the benefits of passing, this should keep you going.
- ▣ Overcoming challenges. The chances are that various problems will come up that will make it difficult for you to study at home. It may not be quiet where you are, or you may have unsupportive people around you, or may have other responsibilities. The key thing to remember is that anyone that ever achieved anything worthwhile had to go through their own challenges. The key is not to give up and push through them.

For more on studying and exam technique come to the pass1sttime.com website and download the free report.