**EXAM PREPARATION TIPS**

Exams are just around the corner for many students and it is essential to be prepared. Please find below study tips that assisted Jake and Joanne to cope with exam preparation.

**Jake Curtis, Bachelor of Commerce, University of Melbourne**

My top 3 tips for exam preparation:

1) Drink plenty of water and exercise as a study break. It motivates you to work hard at the desk!

2) Productivity snowballs. One hard core study day motivates you to do the same the next day.

3) Set achievable goals, e.g., I wrote an English essay every morning before breakfast- good start to the day and very do-able.

**Joanne Merrilees, Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary), Charles Sturt University**

**Procrastination:**

- Five minute rule: Knowing you have a big task to do can be overwhelming, although five minutes of study is easier to motivate yourself. Tell yourself to study for five minutes and set a timer and usually you would be on a role to keep going even further than the intended five minutes.

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**EXAM PREPARATION TIPS**

- Social media can be a distraction; therefore I would recommend a computer application called ‘Self-Control’ (found through Google). This application allows you to ban yourself from any site such as Facebook and YouTube for an amount of time that you choose.

**Motivation to study:**

- Inspiration board – This can help to visually see your end goals. On my inspiration board, I have quotes and pictures of the career that I am currently studying for at university. In Year 12, I also had my desired ATAR on my wall that I saw everyday. You could also set your computer screen to have pictures/quotes to inspire you.

**Other tips:**

- Highlighters- Highlighting key information helps to break down long paragraphs of texts when re-reading information. I also used highlighters in tests to highlight the key words in each question.

- Learning definitions through flash cards – I would film myself saying the definitions and then play it back and check the flash cards to see if I was correct.

- Complete a range of past exams: This allows you encounter a variety of questions that could be similar on the exam as well as get practice on different topics. Getting feedback from doing these practice exams and looking at suggested solutions can help to further improve and understand what the marker is looking for. I also time myself so that I get used to the conditions of the exam.

- After reading a section of a textbook, make a few dot points in relation to what you have just read. I like to write in the textbook (in pencil) next to the paragraph that I have just read or on sticky notes and stick them in the textbook; this allows you to know if you can fully comprehend the information.
Key websites

**Destination Monash**: The University has developed a blog and YouTube site featuring high achieving students sharing their exam preparation tips. It also features tips from parents who have supported their children through exams, [www.destination.monash/](http://www.destination.monash/)

**Victoria Youth Central**: You can search for study tips and resources. This is an excellent website as it is targeted for secondary students, [www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/](http://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/)

**ATAR Notes**: You will be able to collaborate online with other students from across the state, and access free resources, [www.atarnotes.com/](http://www.atarnotes.com/)

Good luck and remember to make your teachers your best friends at this time of year!

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**VOCATIONAL & HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS**

**Have you considered locksmithing?** A locksmith undertakes a huge variety of tasks and duties and locksmithing is a specialist trade area. Once qualified, you can work in areas such as:

- Designing and installing alarm systems
- Undertaking security surveys in areas such as automotive, residential, commercial or government, and
- Designing and constructing master key systems.

To find out how to study locksmithing, go to [www.lga.org.au](http://www.lga.org.au)

**How about working with glass?** A glazier installs or replaces glass in both commercial and domestic environments such as skyscrapers, homes, shopping centers, sporting facilities, schools etc. Glass processors work in the manufacturing of glass products such as table tops, splash backs, shower screens and windows. Glass blowers work with heated glass to make artistic products such as vases and bowls. For more information, go to [www.careersinglass.com.au](http://www.careersinglass.com.au)

**Consider bricklaying!** Bricklayers lay clay bricks and concrete blocks using mortar. They are masters of their profession and create beautiful brick and blockwork in domestic homes and commercial buildings working to specific plans and as part of a team. The work of bricklayers can be seen all around you. There is a shortage of qualified bricklayers in Australia. For information about this exciting industry and to read about the recent World Skills competition, go to [www.becomeabrcklayer.com.au/](http://www.becomeabrcklayer.com.au/)

**Trades and labour skill shortages**: The Hays Quarterly Report has identified the following occupations as being in demand:

- Chefs, Senior Hospitality Managers
- Skilled labourers
- Machine operators and steel fixers
- Leading hands
- Plumbers and formwork carpenters
- Remote fly in/fly out service attendants


**New pathway into the graduate Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) at Notre Dame University, Sydney**: The top five graduates of the Australian Catholic University three-year Bachelor of Biomedicine program will be guaranteed an interview into the MBBS. To learn about the new Biomedicine program, go to [www.acu.edu.au/613919](http://www.acu.edu.au/613919)
**What about Orthoptics?** These allied health professionals play a crucial role in the early detection and treatment of eye diseases in children and adults. They can specialize in areas such as the following:

- Children’s vision/paediatrics
- Eye movement disorders
- Low vision care/rehabilitation
- Cataract care and retinal disorders
- Neurological vision disorders
- Laser eye surgery and corneal conditions
- Driver vision and sports vision

There are about 500 Orthoptists in Australia and their population is ageing, which means there will be plenty of jobs in the future both in Australia and overseas. You can study to become an Orthoptist at La Trobe University, Melbourne, and the University of Technology, Sydney.

For key information about this occupation, visit the Orthoptics Australia website, [www.orthoptics.org.au/](http://www.orthoptics.org.au/)

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**What occupations are in demand in the Banking sector?** According to the Hays Quarterly Report, Mortgage Sales Professionals, Credit Assessors and Lending Managers top the list of banking sector in demand jobs. The report also identified having a second language as being in demand for these job areas- particularly Chinese, Korean and Japanese. You can read the full report at this link- [www.hays.com.au/report](http://www.hays.com.au/report)

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**Federation University- did you know?**

- Has campuses in Ballarat, Gippsland and the Wimmera
- Has over 750 programs ranging from vocational short courses to PhD programs
- Has the highest graduate employment rating of any Victorian University
- Graduates have rated the University 5/5 stars for teaching quality six years in a row.
- Has a first year accommodation guarantee for eligible students
- Has a Tafe and University division.

Explore your options at [http://federation.edu.au/](http://federation.edu.au/)

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**Are you interested in studying International Business?** Monash University will be starting a two year fast tracked Bachelor of International Business in 2015 at the Collins Street, Melbourne campus. You will have the option of undertaking an international study exchange or a local internship. Class sizes will be small and students will have the opportunity to build relationships with their lecturers. You will also be able to undertake a major in Professional Accountancy. For information, go to [http://monash.edu/study/coursefinder/](http://monash.edu/study/coursefinder/)

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**Early Childhood Education**: Did you know that about 90% of brain development occurs during the early years of birth – 5 years? You have the opportunity to play a vital role in supporting young children with their social, emotional and academic development. Gowrie Victoria offer a range of early childhood education vocational qualifications which can be completed online or in the workplace. For information, go to [www.gowrievictoria.org.au/](http://www.gowrievictoria.org.au/)

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**Forever New Fashion Design Scholarship**: Final year RMIT Bachelor of Design (Fashion) (Honours) student Anna Pipkorn is the winner of the inaugural Forever New Scholarship. She will receive a $20 000 contribution towards course fees and design collection expenses and a 12 month employment offer at Forever New once she graduates. As part of the employment offer, she will be able to join the Design and Buying team on a research trip to Paris and also design a capsule collection in collaboration with Forever New. To learn about this amazing scholarship, go to [www.forevernew.com.au/rmit-scholarship](http://www.forevernew.com.au/rmit-scholarship)

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**UPCOMING EVENT**