



## MCA Homework policy (from 2017)



### Introduction:

Every learner must have a homework diary and demonstrate responsibility for completing all assignments when they are due. Homework is an important aspect of the learner's education. It consists of revision and consolidation of work previously done in class and should not be new or unfamiliar work. The homework diary is to be signed daily.

Homework is rarely set over a weekend UNLESS the learner(s) or class has not demonstrated the required effort during the week or final lesson of the week.

### **Homework Policy and Guidelines for Teachers and Parents**

Grades R, 1 and 2:	+/- 10 minutes per day
Grades 3 and 4:	30 minutes per day
Grades 5 and 6:	45 minutes per day
Grades 7 to 9:	60 to 90 minutes per day
Grades 10 to 12:	90 to 120 minutes per day

### **Purpose of homework**

- To provide essential practice in strengthening necessary skills.
- To allow revision and consolidation of work previously done in class.
- To complete work explained and started in class.
- To prepare the learner for the following day's lesson (i.e., reading ahead in the content subjects).
- To develop independent study habits, responsibility and self-discipline.
- To prepare for tests.
- To help the child develop time-management skills (i.e., to budget his/her time).
- To bring the child into contact with out-of-school reference material.

### **Incomplete classwork or homework**

If a learner does not keep up with the work in class, he/she will be required to complete it at home in addition to the set homework.

If homework is not completed, a demerit shall be given. If homework is repeatedly not completed (the number of times is left to the discretion of the educator), the learner may be sent to Detention and a meeting with the parent(s) will be initiated by the educator.

### **How much homework could be given?**

Learners in the Foundation (R to 3) and Intermediate Phases (4 to 6) - are not expected to spend hours on lengthy homework activities.

Purposeful activities within the time frames suggested must be given.

Learners in these phases should deal with only one subject for homework per day, as per homework timetable.

Learners in the Senior (Grades 4 to 7) and FET (10 to 12) phases are not expected to do homework for more than two subjects on any one day.

A homework timetable shall be followed to ensure that this set amount of homework is adhered to.

## **What sort of work should children be doing at home?**

All homework activities should be related to the content covered in class. However, homework should not always be written work. For younger children it will largely be:

- Reading with parents or care-givers
- Informal games to practice Maths skills
- Collecting pictures, etc.

For older children, homework (besides written work) may include:

- Reading
- Preparing a presentation to the class
- Finding out information
- Making something
- Trying out a simple scientific experiment
- Collecting articles, pictures, etc. to be used in class.

However, even if homework does not involve written work for that day, the homework must be described explained or written out in the child's homework book.

## **Projects and assignments**

Learners are given detailed written instructions of what is required for all projects and assignments, of which the core of the work is done during class time (not at home). Educators provide guidance, and the rough draft should be completed in class. Only the final draft—neat and worthy of presentation—is expected to be done for homework.

## **Tips for parental assistance**

- Provide an area that is conducive to studying—one with adequate light and free of interference (e.g., a desk in the bedroom away from others, radio, TV or other distractions).
- Assist in developing a routine for completing homework to avoid procrastination.
- Provide encouragement to complete homework without nagging or extreme pressure.
- Maintain an open-line of communication with the educator so that problems can be resolved early.
- Help your child obtain the necessary reference materials, (e.g., help locate them in the home, provide necessary assistance on a computer/transportation to and from the public library).
- Please *do not do the work for your child*. Parental assistance in certain aspects of the homework or project work is at times helpful, but nothing can replace knowledge gained through personal experience. Being challenged is part of the learning process and essential to developing good problem-solving skills, managing time and learning to cope with stress.
- Make an effort to check that your child has completed his/her homework. In so doing your child will understand the importance of the task.