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# How to Study at Bangor: Top Tips

Study Skills Centre

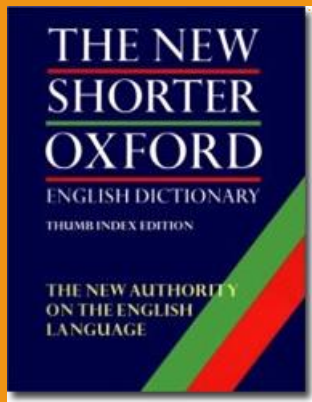
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# What is academic integrity?

- Do not copy the work of others, especially during assessments (essays, tests, exams, etc.).
- Acknowledge all the sources of the information presented in your work.
- Be clear and honest about the research process undertaken.
- ✗ Copying someone's work for an university essay, test, exam = CHEATING
- ✗ Write a text without acknowledging where the facts have come from = PLAGIARISM
- ✗ Work as a group with other students to write a report, but submit it as your individual report = COLLUSION

**Class attendance is important for your study and visa.**

# What exactly is plagiarism?



## Plagiarism, *n*

‘The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft.’

You are **plagiarising** if you:

- Incorporate any information - words, images, ideas and data, created by others in your work as if it was your own.
- Fail to acknowledge **fully** the sources of knowledge in your work.

# Student A

## Original text:

Social media devotees are being encouraged to "take back control" and stop scrolling through their feeds for an entire month. The Royal Public Health Society is behind 'Scroll Free September', which is targeting users of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. It believes logging off could improve sleep, relationships and wellbeing. The campaign is asking phone addicts to give up, or cut down on, their use of personal social media accounts.

**Source:** BBC Health, 2018

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Plagiarism

Not  
Plagiarism

# Student B

## Original text:

Social media devotees are being encouraged to "take back control" and stop scrolling through their feeds for an entire month. The Royal Public Health Society is behind 'Scroll Free September', which is targeting users of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. It believes logging off could improve sleep, relationships and wellbeing. The campaign is asking phone addicts to give up, or cut down on, their use of personal social media accounts.

**Source:** BBC Health, 2018

Socialmedia devotees are being urged to "take back control" and reduce scrolling through their feeds for one month. The Royal Public Health Society is behind 'Scroll Free September', which is aimed at Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat users. The RPHS believes this could improve sleep, relationships and wellbeing. The campaign is inviting phone addicts to give up, or cut down on, their use of personal social media accounts (BBC Health, 2018).

Plagiarism

Not  
Plagiarism

# To avoid plagiarism ensure ...

- Before making any notes you:
  - **record** all bibliographic details.
  - **distinguish** between your ideas and those of others.
- When taking notes you:
  - **paraphrase** if the idea/statement is of interest.
  - **quote directly** if the wording itself is important.
- While writing you:
  - **provide** a citation and a reference for each source used.
  - **label** data and images, both adapted and reproduced.
  - **follow** the requested referencing style.

# Where to learn more about this topic?

[Avoiding plagiarism - online guide](#)

[Is it plagiarism? – online quiz](#)

[Taking Notes – online guide](#)

[Citations and Reference Lists – online guide](#)

[Bangor University Harvard Referencing – online guide](#)





# What does independent learning mean?

Please make groups of 3-4 and working together write a list of the 3 features that are characteristic for independent learning.

You have 5 minutes.



# Managing your studies

## You are responsible for your own learning and success.

- Your teacher talks through most of the lesson.
- You are given homework and sources/ ideas to complete it.
- You need to remember a lot of facts.
- You are rarely asked to check on the facts and say if you agree.
- Both lecturer and students talk and keep notes
- Write a text with little knowledge on the topic
- Work as a group on projects
- Often You are asked to express your opinion in writing

# Mary has a month to write an essay

**Critically discuss if dogs kept as pets are smarter than homeless dogs. (1500 words)**

Working in groups of 3-4 write a list of 3-5 actions that Mary could do to start working on the essay in the first week after she is given the task.

You have 5 minutes.

## 4 weeks to write 1500 words

Working on your own use the given timetable handout and decide when the 3-5 activities that your group decided Mary needs to do in the first week of writing her essay should be done.

Write these down in the available space(s).

You have 3 minutes.



# Where to learn more about this topic?

**[Essay Terms Explained - online guide](#)**

**[Writing Essays – online guide](#)**

**[Reading and Research – online guide](#)**

**[Writing Reports – online guide](#)**

**[Using Microsoft Word – online guide](#)**



# Critical thinking



- Have you heard about it already?
- How is it different from normal thinking?

“To examine ideas, to evaluate them against what you already know and to make decisions about their merit. The aim of critical thinking is to maintain an ‘objective’ position. When you think critically, you review all sides of an argument, you evaluate both its strengths and weaknesses.” (Open University, 2008)

# Why?

- Evaluate sources of information
- Express your understanding of the taught material
- Find alternative solutions to common problems
- Assess statements and claims made by others

# When?

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Laboratory practicals
- Group Work
- Field trips
- Reading
- Writing

# Where to learn more about this topic?

[What is critical reading? - online guide](#)

[Improving your reading skills – online guide](#)

[What is critical writing? - online guide](#)

[Writing Consultations – online booking form](#)

[Mathematics and Statistics – online help](#)





# Too much – what to do?

**Do NOT panic - be proactive**

## **Talk to:**

- Personal tutor
- Lecturer(s)
- Classmate(s)
- Housemate(s)
- International Education Centre
- Study Skills Centre
- English Language Centre for Overseas Students (ELCOS)
- Student Services

**Make a list** of everything that needs to be done and when is the deadline for each activity.

# Be Better than Ever



**[Prepare to Study in the UK](#)**

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**[Academic Writing Appointments](#)**

**[Mathematics and Statistics Appointments](#)**