

Preparing for lectures – Transcript

In lectures and other taught sessions, there is usually a lot of new material to take on board over a short period of time.

Preparing in advance makes it easier to spot the most relevant information and to make sense of what you hear.

Prepare by reading

Get a feel for the topic beforehand. Read or glance through an introductory text on the subject. Look for themes, issues, and points for discussion. If you come across a technical term that is unfamiliar, find out what it means.

Ask questions

While you are doing your preparatory reading, write down questions you want answered. Leave space to write answers underneath each question, either during or after a lecture.

Form an opinion

You may find it helpful to hold a particular point of view on one or more aspects of your reading. Write these thoughts down. Note whether your opinions change in light of a lecture, and the reasons why.

Look for links

As you prepare, look out for connections between what you are reading and what you already know. Glance through your notes from a previous lecture and look for links to a lecture that follows.