A Guide to being an effective Senior Science Student!

Before the class
You can prepare yourself to be an active participant in class by:
- looking at the information provided in the syllabus, course information or study guide for the topic to see what is expected.
- reading through your text or notes of the material that could be covered in the next lesson.
- working through any questions or problems that have been set or reading texts that have been set for the class
- noting any areas of uncertainty you may have relating to the questions or texts and taking these to the class for clarification
- anticipating any questions that might be asked and how you might answer them

During the class
You can be an active participant in class by:
- being engaged from the start of the lesson (get pens, books etc ready)
- working through the exercises that have been set, asking questions and discussing with other students some possible solutions or ideas
- asking the questions you brought with you to the class and making sure you get answers before you leave—the question you ask is often one that several others in the group wanted to ask!
- taking part by exchanging your interpretations of the related concepts and ideas that have been presented in class and in your reading
- asking for clarification from someone
- rephrasing what someone else has just said as a way of clarifying
- asking for repetition from someone in the group
- playing a leadership role like class presenter, note-taker, chairperson, or by contributing to group harmony—you might, for example, try including someone who is shy or reminding the group that they need to get back to the main topic.

After the class
You can be an active learner after your class by:
- organising and adding to your notes
- making links for yourself between the syllabus dot points, your class notes and your pracs as well as other reading on related topics
- checking your understanding of concepts or your solutions to the set problems
- contacting your teacher or using your student networks to clarify information or problems
- converting your notes into a summary as a one-page diagram or flow-chart; you can use this to check your understanding now and later to revise for exams.
- set up support networks
- arranging for your network to meet fortnightly outside of class time to discuss ideas, issues or problems

You can get the most out of your classes by preparing for them, being an active participant during the class and making good use of your notes afterwards.