

How Do You Learn?

Some thoughts on teaching candidates over the years.

I have been asked by candidates, “[Why don't I retain the details?](#)”. In many cases it relates to the type of personality you have and how you learn. Let me explain.

If you are the type of person that hates balancing the cheque book and doesn't even want to think about doing their own taxes, it may mean that you are not a detail person. You read something and the detail escapes you. I see this in people taking the courses all the time. They ask a question by email. I answer that question and add a few things. They then email me asking me about the very things I have just gone over. It isn't their fault, it is the sort of person they are. If you are similar, you have to change your approach and LOVE THE DETAIL. make a point of remembering percentages etc. The reality is that for the fellowship exam the minutiae comprise a significant amount of the marks you can possibly accrue. The details are also important for taking your answer to the “consultant” level. They're what separates the registers from the bosses, and the successful candidates from the failing ones. (See “*the Devil's in the Details*” in the document below.

How we best learn is important.

Are you a **visual** person, and **auditory** person or a **kinaesthetic** person? If you are not a visual person, (ie you don't learn best by looking at things) then if you are using flashcards only, you are just frustrating yourself. Find out about the way you learn. Fellowshipexam.com purposefully uses both **written**(visual) and **film**(visual and auditory) on these exam pages. We try to make our videos as entertaining as possible (kinaesthetic/emotional learning). Sometimes we even think we're funny!

The point is that we try to use all modalities to stimulate your learning. Some will be more effective for you than others depending on your individual learning style. Find out what your learning style is and use it more efficiently.

Take a minute and find out your learning style by taking this [QUIZ](#). Some elements are a touch trite, but before you embark on the biggest study project of your life it's worth thinking about what works for you, and maximising your use of those techniques. There's no denying the fellowship exam is hard work, but within that context you should be trying to make your work as efficient as possible.

Effective note-taking

Another thing we're often asked is by candidates is how to be more effective in their note-taking. Again everyone will have a different technique that they use and that works for them.

People use different techniques to take notes:

- **Flash Cards**- there are various types available. One type that I have used is [ANKI](#). Its free. It also works across all software platforms i.e. window, OSX, Linux and it works on all mobile systems except windows ie., iphone and android and blackberry. Another free one is [Mnemosyne](#), and it works on windows, OSX, however it doesn't work on IOS, but does work on android. There are many more you can look up. [Google Keep](#) is something else you can use, which also allows voice notes and photos, but is more of a simple message app. Flashcards can be used to enable you to review topics at a moment's notice if you get a few minutes to yourself at work.
- Another alternative is simply putting your notes on **power point slides**.
- You can also use [Evernote](#) and take notes under different folders and they are already organised. The benefit of this is that if you are someone who hates typing and wants to write, you can write the notes and use the [moleskin system](#), that then allows you to take a photo with your iphone and it automatically uploads to Evernote.

In any event, if you are taking notes make sure that they are “high yield” - major themes, and pertinent details. Paring things down to the really important information is one of the more important skills to master as you prepare for the fellowship.