Independent Learning in Homeschooling — Reading Comprehension Unit

1. Reading Passage

Learning to Learn on My Own

Noah is a sixteen-year-old homeschooled student who has spent the last two years developing strong independent-learning habits. When he first started homeschooling, he relied heavily on his mother to explain every subject. Over time, however, he realised that learning independently would give him more freedom and confidence.

Each Monday morning, Noah creates a weekly study plan. He lists the topics he needs to cover, the assignments he must complete, and the goals he hopes to achieve. Instead of waiting for someone to remind him, he checks his progress every evening and adjusts his schedule if necessary.

One of Noah's favourite independent-learning strategies is using online resources. He watches science videos, reads articles, and completes interactive quizzes to test his understanding. When he faces a difficult concept, he tries to solve the problem on his own before asking for help. He believes that struggling a little is part of the learning process.

Independent learning has also taught Noah important life skills. He has learned how to manage his time, stay organised, and take responsibility for his education. Although homeschooling can sometimes feel challenging, Noah enjoys the sense of achievement he gets from completing tasks without being told what to do. He hopes these skills will help him succeed in university and beyond.

2. Close-Ended Questions

1. How old is Noah?
   a) 14   b) 15   c) 16   d) 17

2. Who helped Noah when he first started homeschooling?
   a) His tutor   b) His mother   c) His brother   d) His friend

3. When does Noah create his weekly study plan?
   a) Friday   b) Sunday   c) Monday   d) Every morning

4. What does Noah do when he faces a difficult concept?
   a) Asks for help immediately   b) Ignores it   c) Tries to solve it himself   d) Skips the topic

5. Which skill has Noah developed through independent learning?
   a) Cooking   b) Time management   c) Sports training   d) Drawing

3. Open-Ended Questions

6. Why does Noah check his progress every evening?

7. What online tools does Noah use to support his learning?

8. Why does Noah believe that "struggling a little" is useful?

9. What feelings does Noah experience when he completes tasks independently?

10. In your own words, explain how independent learning prepares Noah for the future.

4. Detailed Model Answers

Close-Ended Answers:

1. c) 16

2. b) His mother

3. c) Monday

4. c) Tries to solve it himself

5. b) Time management

Open-Ended Answers:

6. He checks his progress to see whether he is meeting his goals and to adjust his schedule if needed.

7. He uses science videos, online articles, and interactive quizzes.

8. He believes it helps him think more deeply and makes learning more meaningful.

9. He feels a strong sense of achievement and satisfaction.

10. It teaches him responsibility, organisation, and time-management skills, which will help him succeed in university and adult life.

5. Vocabulary List

Word	Meaning	Example Sentence
Independent learning	Learning without relying on a teacher	Independent learning helps students become responsible.
Rely on	Depend on	Noah used to rely on his mother.
Weekly study plan	A schedule for the week	He creates a weekly study plan every Monday.

Adjust	Change slightly	He adjusts his schedule when needed.
Concept	An idea or topic	He tries to understand difficult concepts himself.
Interactive	Allowing participation	Interactive quizzes help him test his knowledge.
Responsibility	Being in charge of your own tasks	Homeschooling teaches responsibility.
Achievement	A feeling of success	He feels achievement when he completes tasks.
Organised	Able to plan well	Independent learning helps him stay organised.
Struggle	Find something difficult but keep trying	He believes struggling is part of learning.

6. Grammar Focus

1. 1. Present Simple for routines

- Noah creates a weekly study plan.
- He checks his progress every evening.

2. 2. Present Continuous for ongoing actions

- Noah is developing strong independent-learning habits.

3. 3. Modal verbs (can, should, must)

- Independent learning can help students become confident.
- Students should check their progress regularly.

4. 4. Cause and effect connectors

- He checks his progress every evening so he stays on track.

5. 5. Relative clauses (who / which / that)

- Noah is a student who creates his own study plan.
- He uses quizzes that help him learn.