

# A NEED FULFILLED

A review of

**STUDENTS' GUIDE TO**

**SUCCESS**

**AT almost EVERYTHING**

by

**Hugh Smith**

and

**Helen M Smith**

**We have been waiting for this book. It fulfils a need: a need too often unrecognised. Despite its title it will not only be students that benefit from it. Educators work better when their students ask good questions, research without needing too much direction and become participants in learning rather than merely recipients of knowledge.**

The book is divided into sections and perhaps Section 1 **SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT THE INTERNET** encapsulates the essence of what the book offers and how it engages the reader. We do not merely learn the meanings of terms we have pretended to understand but are carefully and clearly taken through stages that at each point widen and deepen the opportunities to be a better learner.

Too often learning has meant getting over, round, under or through a series of barriers. The concept of 'accessibility' was introduced to counter the belief that learners should be presented with a series of practical and linguistic obstacle courses. Why should we play tricks with learners? Why do we expect them to decode unaided the obscurities of our questions? I believe that, although aimed at students, reading Section 2 **HOW TO THINK LIKE YOUR TEACHER** should not be confined to them. The message of this section is not simply to second-guess your teacher but, once again, it is that the more you know about the learning business the more likely it is that you will be offered a fruitful partnership.

Section 3 is entitled **THE MOTIVATIONAL BIT**. Motivation comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes. It can arrive unexpectedly and hide from us just when we need it. We may even think we do not need it but we do. Here in so many

ways the authors provide the means of boosting the confidence of students. They even nail down the apostrophe (or should that be apostrophie's?).

Section 4 is on **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**. Does this matter? You might think not but students often suffer a sudden and unexpected transition from a predictable home life that contains few physical and psychological surprises to a life far away from home. Every day can require adjustment, especially when you are about to embark upon a programme of learning that may make unforeseen demands.

A most welcome feature of this book is that at a number of points you will come across the lovely headings: **Free Stuff, More Free Stuff** and **Even More free Stuff**. I ask you, what student can survive without free stuff?

The book ends with **USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES** and **REFLECTION**.

You also get a companion website: [www.studentspaceuk.com](http://www.studentspaceuk.com)

The book is available from [www.smithsonspublishing.com](http://www.smithsonspublishing.com), from bookshops and from Amazon. There is also a Kindle version.

Can you borrow mine? No! I am keeping it.

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