

# Exam Top Tips



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A helpful guide to achieving  
success in your GCSE's



@TVAbriigg



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# English Language

## Reading

- ✓ You will have one hour to complete this section on both papers, so there is no time to waste. Write the number of the question in the margin.
- ✓ **In paper 2 questions 5 & 6 will ask you to refer to both texts in your answer. Make sure you are clear about which writer or text you are discussing.**
- ✓ Make sure you've read the information in bold (above the question) so that you know which text to use to answer the question.
- ✓ **Read the question, underline the key words and then skim the text to find the information you need to answer the question. When you find the answer record it-read and record.**
- ✓ Your answers should track the text.
- ✓ **Use the evidence-comment to structure your answer.**
- ✓ Ensure your selected quotations are no longer than 6 words.
- ✓ **Use connectives such as: 'firstly', 'secondly' to show the examiner where your new point starts. Remember the 20:20:20 rule for Component 2.**

## Component 1: Creative writing:

- ✓ **You have 45 minutes to complete this task.**
- ✓ Select one title and make sure you plan.
- ✓ **Remember the 5 part plan: Opening, Development, Problem, Reaction, Reflection.**
- ✓ You should have 5 clear parts to your story.
- ✓ **Remember the 'Arms Length Test' -your story needs to be at least three pages long and have clear paragraphs.**
- ✓ Your story needs to be believable-limit your characters and try and write about something you know a lot about.

## Component 2:

- ✓ **You have 1 hour to complete two compulsory tasks.**
- ✓ Read the questions and highlight key words/phrases that explain purpose, audience and format.
- ✓ **Plan your answer-think of the main ideas for each paragraph.**
- ✓ You should have 6 paragraphs-introduction, 4 key ideas and a conclusion.
- ✓ **Use the 'Building a Paragraph' strategy delivered to you in class, this will ensure you achieve detail.**
- ✓ The 'Arms Length Test' applies here too-2 ½ pages should be enough for each task (4 pages in total).
- ✓ **Make sure you make the format obvious e.g. letters need addresses!**
- ✓ Ensure you use the right formality for your audience.
- ✓ **Check your spellings, punctuation and sentences carefully. Use a range of punctuation. ,()!?:;**

# English Literature

## Exam Tips



- ☒ **Before going into the exam, ensure that you are confident talking about the plain plot, themes and characters for all the set texts.**
- ☒ Learning the key quotations before you enter the exam will give you an advantage as you will know some key quotations that you can refer to which will link to different themes and characters.
- ☒ **Be prepared to see a booklet with lots of texts you haven't studied and that you will need to ignore.**
- ☒ Read all questions at least twice and circle/underline all key words.
- ☒ **Know how long you should spend on each question**
- ☒ Knowing and sticking to timings will be really important to ensure that you don't miss questions. Spending too long, or too little time on a question could have a great impact on your final grade.
- ☒ **Answers the questions as best as you can and don't leave any out.**
- ☒ Leave space after every question so that you can go back and add to questions if you find you have time at the end.
- ☒ **In an English exam, you never can never "finish early". If you think you have "finished", go back and add to any questions – particularly the extract questions. Also, as there are SPaG marks for 'Macbeth' and 'An Inspector Calls', make sure you have proof-read your responses.**

## **Paper 1:**

### **Section A (Shakespeare):**

For 'Macbeth' you will have to answer solely on an extract in Section A and then complete an essay response on the rest of the play in Section B.

**You are advised to spend 20 minutes on Section A and 40 minutes on Section B**

### **Section B (Anthology):**

For section B, you will need to answer two questions. The first question will be a on a given single poem from the anthology. The second question will expect you to compare this poem to a poem of your choice from the anthology.

**You are advised to spend 20 minutes on Section A and 40 minutes on Section B**

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## **Paper 2:**

### **Section A (Modern Prose/Drama):**

In terms of 'An Inspector Calls', you will be given an extract-essay response. Here you will discuss the extract and the wider text in the same response.

You are advised to spend 15 minutes on the extract and then 30 mins on the wider play.

### **Section B (19th-Century Prose):**

For 'A Christmas Carol' you will once again also be given an extract-essay response. Here you will discuss the extract and the wider text in the same response.

**You are advised to spend 15 minutes on the extract and then 30 mins on the wider text.**

## Section C (Unseen Poetry):

For the 'Unseen Poetry' you will be asked to answer two questions. The first question will be asked to analyse a poem you have not studied previously. For the second question you will then need to compare this poem to another poem. For the second question, you should focus more of your analysis on the second poem.



**You should spend 20 minutes on section A and 40 minutes on section B.**



## Approach to Literature Analysis



### **Comment**

Tell the story and explain the event/character/theme



### **Evidence**

Write a quotation from the text that tells us something about the event/character/theme/message.



### **Development**

Explain how it shows the character/theme/event  
Explain what we learn about the themes  
Explain why the writer is showing these in this way.



# A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

## Stave One

**Key Events:** Scrooge explains he thinks the poor should work or die and **refuses** to donate to the charity workers. Marley appears in his door knocker and then confronts him about his miserable attitude. Scrooge thinks **Marley** is a **hallucination**.

### Key Words:

- Refuses
- Marley
- Hallucination.

## Stave Two

**Key Events:** Scrooge is confronted by the Ghost of Christmas Past whose light represents hope and truth. It shows him **memories** from his past: being a child, being Fezziwig's apprentice and breaking up with Belle.

### Key Words:

- Past
- Memories

## Stave Three

**Key Events:** He's then confronted by the Ghost of Christmas **Present** who shows him the **Cratchit's** miserable Christmas and **Fred's** Christmas where Scrooge is insulted. He is then shown **Ignorance** and Want and made to realise the effect his selfishness has on the poor.

### Key Words:

- Present
- Cratchits
- Fred
- Ignorance

## Stave Four

**Key Events:** The Ghost of Christmas **Yet to Come** appears and shows him his own grave and a **vision** of a possible future where Tiny Tim could die. Scrooge then **begs** for a chance to change.

### Key Words:

- Yet
- Vision
- Begs

## Stave Five

**Key Events:** Scrooge becomes more polite, anonymously buys the Cratchits a turkey, donates a large sum to the charity workers, raises Bob's salary and becomes a second father to Tiny Tim. He rediscovers his Christmas **spirit**.

### Key Words:

- Redeems
- Spirit

Now chunk and recall until you can recite the whole plot outline in order.

Your teacher will guide you with this!

## Quotation / Act & Scene or Stave

### Stave One

- "tight-fisted hand at the grindstone"
- "solitary as an oyster"
- "If they would rather die, ... they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population"
- "darkness is cheap and Scrooge liked it"
- "mankind was my business"
- "you may be an undigested bit of beef"
- "I wear the chain I forged in life"

- "I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now"
- "may you be happy in the life you have chosen"
- "why do you delight to torture me?"
- "Scrooge could not hide the light"

### Stave Two

- "I see a crutch without an owner"
- "say he will be spared"
- "This boy is ignorance. This girl is Want."

### Stave Three

- "I am not the man I was"
- "Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they shadows of the things that May be only?"
- "tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone"
- "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year"

### Stave Four

- "I am about to raise your salary"
- "and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father"
- "God bless us, every one!"

### Stave Five



# Unseen Poetry

## Who, What, When, Where, Why

A framework for success with Eduqas poetry.

### Who

This need to be the person, people or characters within the poem. Sometimes this is the writer themselves, sometimes it is not. As well as the voice of the poem, consider the other people mentioned.

- Who is the person telling the story?
- Is anyone else mentioned?
- What is the relationship between the people in the poem?
- Is the writer telling the poem from their autobiographical perspective or have they created a persona?

### What

This are the topics of the poem. They might include things like nature, life and death, growing up, growing old, independence, misery, love and everything else that life can cover.

- Is the poem about the natural world?
- Is the poem the human world?
- Does the poem concern how people relate to each other?
- Does anything change in the poem?
- Is the poem about something concrete (e.g. war, nature) or something more abstract (love, loss)?

### When

This is when the poem is set. Not all poems have a clear time frame, but many do. Some are very specific - for example, being set in the First World War. For others, it may just be important to note that the character is remembering something from their past. Others may refer to a time of day or particular season.

- Does the poem have anything inside it which gives away a date? This could include wars, technology or famous people.
- Does the poem just generally look back at someone's past?
- Does the poem look to the future?

### Where

This is where the poem is set. This isn't always clear, but can often be inferred from descriptions. It could be in golden fields, a city's back streets or someone's bedroom. The location will tell you something about the story.

- Is there anything that gives away a location?
- Is there only one location or more?

# Who, What, When, Where, Why

A framework for success with Eduqas poetry.

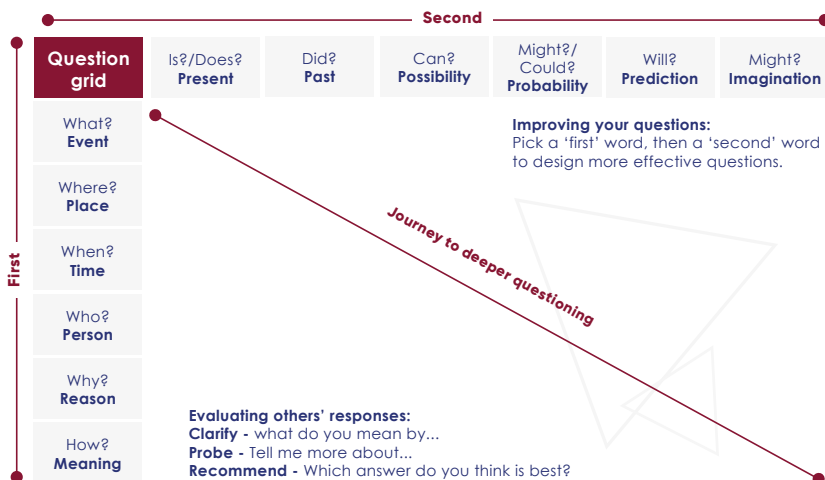
## Why

This is the most important part of your answer, but it should come last. You cannot answer the 'why' until you have figured out the 'who', 'what', 'when and 'where'. The 'why' is the lesson of the poem - the writer's message to the world. The message will usually concern some of the topics in the 'what'.

- What does this poem teach us about the world?
- What does this poem show us about people?
- What does this poem want us to realise about the 'what' of the poem?
- Does the writer want to see something change in the world?

## Questioning Your Ideas

Once you have figured out the story of the poem (comment) and you have appropriate quotations (evidence), it's time to find use appropriate questions to generate your development.



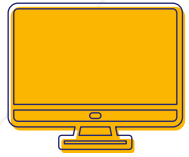
A good question should begin with a word from each of the axes above and then end by asking **something specific about the text/character(s)/imagery/emotions/themes**.

- . **Why might** the persona feel upset?
- . **What could** they regret about their past?
- . **Where did** things go wrong for them?
- . **How does** the writer use the idea of memory?

# Computer Science

- ✓ **Read all the information in and around the question.** Check for follow through marks in next question this might give you a clue.
- ✓ **Have you answered every question?** A guess may get you a mark.
- ✓ **Is it an explain keyword?** Remember to use an example in context.
- ✓ **Learn your key terms for the 6-mark questions –** use them correctly (Did you mean memory or storage?)
- ✓ **Read and re-read the question. Highlight the key information and command words.**
- ✓ **Leave no blank questions – especially tick boxes!**
- ✓ **Double check your calculations –** check you've written the right number of bytes if specified.
- ✓ **Double check the conversion –** Are you converting to/from HEX, Denary or Binary? Show your working!
- ✓ **Check your units are correct.** Is it Bit, Byte, Kilo, Mega, Giga... Convert using 1000 not 1024.
- ✓ **When calculating file sizes for images, sound or text remember to multiply the values.**
- ✓ **Left shift doubles, right shift halves.**

## Coding Questions



- ☑ **If unsure look for the easy wins**  
Variable Name - Input – Calculate – Print.
- ☑ **Is repeated a fixed number of time (FOR) or is it based on a condition (WHILE)**
- ☑ **Spell variables correctly.**  
Match the case in the question (was it Upper- or Lower-case letters?)
- ☑ **Syntax errors stop the code from running.**
- ☑ **Logic errors produce unexpected results.**
- ☑ **When looking for errors in a sample code use a trace table** – remember its not python so ignore colons and next words these are not the problem you are looking for.
- ☑ **There's an acronym for most things.** Andy, Talks to Naughty Lisa. CSCDPR, FUMPUS, DEC etc

Online revision: <https://smartrevise.online/>



# Design & Technology

You will have one **2 hour paper**

You will be tested on **three different topics**

**Section A** - Core Technical Principles (20 marks)

**Section B** - Specialist technical principles (chosen material area) (30 marks)

**Section C** - Designing and making principles (50 marks)

### Exam Tips



- ☒ **Section A:** Will include 10 multiple choice questions – do not leave any of these questions out. If you do not know the answer use the process of elimination
- ☒ You will also have short answer questions on general DT knowledge.
- ☒ **Section B:** You will be tested on your chosen material area. You will need to ensure you know how your chosen material is processed, the stock forms, finishes and commercial manufacturing process.
- ☒ **Section C:** You should consider your NEA. This section will be looking at primary and secondary research, analysing data, analysing existing products, understanding how modelling is used, technical drawing skills and how product manufacture has an environmental impact. You may also be tested on a designer and a company.



## Top Tips



Read every question twice.

Never leave a question out .



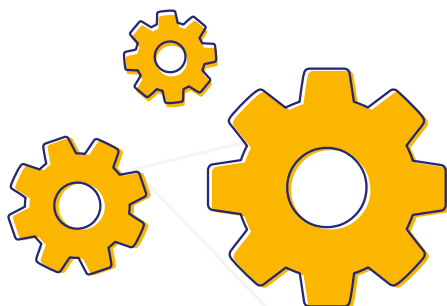
Check how many marks are available for the question and use this as a guide to the number of points needed.



Syntax errors stop the code from running.



Use the command words e.g. Explain.... (4 marks) means give 2 developed points with connectives. 'For extended answers worth 6 marks or more, aim to include 3 developed points, with a conclusion linking back to the question.



Excelling in

# Drama

You will have **1 hour 30 mins** to answer 9 questions.

Within section A of the exam, you will answer 8 questions on Blood Brothers. This section is worth 50 marks.

In section B, you will answer 1 question, which will ask you to evaluate or analyse an aspect of the live performance you have seen and studied. This question is worth 30 marks.

## **Section A** - Blood Brothers:

- ☒ **Read the question carefully.** Is the question asking you to answer as an actor, director or designer?
- ☒ **Always support your suggestions as the actor, director or designer with an explanation of the effect you want to have on the audience.**
- ☒ **Check how many marks the question is worth and use this as a guide for the number of examples and explanations you will need.**
- ☒ **Is the question asking you to focus on one scene or moment or more than one?**

## Section B - Live Performance:

- ✓ **Often students find it useful to start their exam with this section.** This means you can get a big mark question out of the way first. You should only spend 35 minutes on this section.
- ✓ **Remember you need to write down the production you have seen, the place and date you saw it at the top of the paper.**
- ✓ **Highlight the key words in the question.** What is it asking you to analyse or evaluate?
- ✓ **Often in this question the paper will give your suggestions on what you could focus you answer on. Use these as a guide.**
- ✓ **You should write in full sentences, using a comment, giving evidence to back this up and then explaining the effect on the audience.**
- ✓ **Remember, you must say what worked well in the performance but also what did not.**
- ✓ **Ensure the correct spelling of drama terminology**

## General advice for Drama exam:

**Take care with your timings.** You should spend 55 mins answering questions on Blood Brothers and 35 mins answering questions on the Live Performance.

**Don't leave any gaps.** If you are unsure leave the question until the end, go back to it and if you still don't know, try! Every mark could make the difference!



# Food Preparation and Nutrition

## Exam Tips



- ✓ This paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long
- ✓ It is testing your knowledge of food preparation and Nutrition
- The paper is made up of 2 sections** - Section A is based on the picture stimuli and is 1 question which has 5 parts - 15 marks in total
- ✓ Section B has 8 questions which vary in complexity and size - and this section totals 85 marks
- ✓ The question types vary throughout the paper
- ✓ The paper will assess **AO1, AO2** and **AO4**
- ✓ The total marks for this paper is 100



## Exam Technique

- Read through the whole question before starting to answer, This will help you understand what is required of you.
- **Use a highlighter to pick out the key words.**
- Look at the command words and the number of marks available for each question, they will help you decide how much detail is needed.
- If a word is **bold** it is important.
- Keep your exam paper open at the double page spread, do not fold it in half.
- Read your answers to check they make sense.

## Skills being tested

AO1 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding

AO2 - Apply knowledge and understanding

## Approach

**Step 1** - Look at the picture Stimuli.

**Step 2** - Read questions 1 (a)-(e) and highlight key words/command verbs.

**Step 3** - Check how many marks each part/question is worth so you spend your time appropriately.

**Step 4** - Look again at the picture stimuli

**Step 5** - Think about the best answer for each part/question.

**Step 6** - Write the answers for 1 (a)-(e) in the spaces provided.

# Geography Exams

You will have 1 hour  
30 mins for paper 1  
**(Hazards, the living  
world and physical  
landscapes)**

You will have 1 hour  
30 mins for paper 2  
**(Urban challenges,  
economic world,  
resource  
management)**

You will have 1 hour  
15 mins for paper 3  
**(fieldwork and  
pre-release)**



'Read every question carefully and remember to apply BUGs:

**B** = Box the command word

**U** = Underline key words in the question

**G** = Go back and re-read the question

**S** = Start a plan for longer answer questions.'



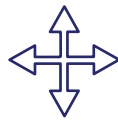
Check how many marks are available for the question and use this as a guide to the number of points needed.



Use the command words e.g. Explain.... (4 marks) means give 2 developed points with connectives. Name/ state.... (4) means 4 different points.



'For extended answers worth 6 marks or more, aim to include 3 developed points, with a conclusion linking back to the question.'



✓ 'Make sure you use the resource booklet properly. So many answers are on the page, you just have to find them! If the question says to use a figure, you must refer to it in your answer'.

✓ 'When reading maps, refer to the 3 C's: Continents, Countries and Compass Directions'.

When reading graphs think about the overall trend, specific figures and any 'mini-trends' (changes within the graph).

✓ Ensure the correct spelling of key words.

✓ Remember capital letters for place names.

✓ Write in full sentences and use paragraphs for your longer answers.

✓ 'Learn your case studies and specific place names/examples'.

Take care with timing. You should aim to earn one mark per minute. Re read and check your answers at the end. Make sure you attempt every question.



Success in

# Graphics

You will have one 1 hour 30 mins paper

**You will be tested on three different topics.**



## AO1

Recall knowledge and show understanding

The emphasis here is for learners to recall and communicate the fundamental elements of knowledge and understanding.  
(40-45%)

## AO2

Apply knowledge and understanding

The emphasis here is for learners to apply their knowledge and understanding to real-world contexts and novel situations.  
(35-40%)

## AO3

Analyse and evaluate knowledge and understanding

The emphasis here is for learners to develop analytical thinking skills to make reasoned judgements and reach conclusions  
(20-25%)



**Section A is 21 marks**, it will consist of multiple choice and shorter answers. You will also be asked to analyse an existing graphics piece.

**Section B is of 20 marks**, it will consist of multiple choice questions ranging from 2-6 marks

**Section C is 21 marks**, it will consist of multiple choice questions ranging from 2-6 marks

**Section D is 18 marks**, it will consist of two product analysis type questions which are 9 marks each.

### Top Tips

#### Know the key words

Components

Principles

Imagery

Composition

Typography

Think back to your NEA and class work. Use the skills you have learnt

Read every question twice

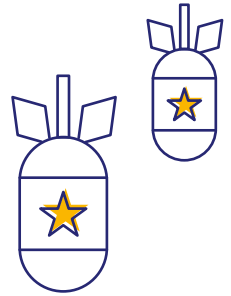
Never leave a question out

Check how many marks are available for the question and use this as a guide to the number of points needed.



Top tips in

# History Exams



## Paper 2: Anglo Saxon and Norman England

### **Describe 2 features of...QUESTIONS (4 marks/4-6 minutes)**

You need to identify a feature for 1 mark then add detail/explanation for the 2nd mark.

Repeat for a second feature.

### **Explain why... QUESTIONS (12 marks/18 minutes)**

3 paragraphs, each for a different reason.

**PEE paragraphs** - give a point that provides an the answer to the question, use evidence and examples to support the point and finally explain how what you have said answers the question.

### **...How far do you agree? QUESTIONS (16 marks/24 minutes)**

Introduction where you mention the factors that +/- the question.

Start your main body by agreeing with the statement in the question.

You could either structure your answer using one large paragraph to agree, providing reasons to agree with evidence and examples to develop your points. This structure would work well if you can't think of much to say for each individual point.

Or you could write several different paragraphs to agree using the PEE structure. This structure would work well when you have more to say about each individual factor.

Repeat for reasons to challenge the statement in the question.

End with a conclusion where you state your overall view and provide justification for it (the 1/2 key reasons that have led you to your judgement).

## Paper 2: American West

### **Explain 2 consequences of... QUESTIONS (8 marks/12 minutes)**

A consequence is what happened after something – the significance or impact it had.

Consequences can be good or bad.

Cover each consequence in a different paragraph to allow you to see how much detail you have gone into for each.

### **Write a narrative account analysing... QUESTIONS (8 marks/12 minutes)**

You need to write a historical account of what happened – not a made-up story!

The events need to be done chronologically, start with the beginning, what came next and what was the final thing to happen?

Aim for at least 3 events/developments and cover each in a separate paragraph to allow you to see exactly how much you have done for each.

Use linking language (firstly, the next thing to happen was, this led to, following on from this, finally)

### **Explain the importance of... for... QUESTIONS (8 marks/12 minutes)**

Pay attention to the 'for' part of the question and focus your answer on what it is asking about.

Write about what the situation was like before the issue named in the question and then what things were like afterwards. The importance is the difference between these two moments.





# Top tips in

## Paper 3: Germany

**How useful are sources C and D for an enquiry into... QUESTIONS (8 marks/12 minutes)**

**COP** the source to show how useful it is:

**C-content** (what does the source say or show you and how is this useful for answering the question?).

**O-wn** knowledge (what do you know that can back the source up?).

**P-rovenance** (nature/type of source, origin/where it comes from, purpose/why was it made and does this make the source more or less useful?).

- ✓ Aim for at least one comment of each type for each source. What is the main difference
- ✓ between these views QUESTIONS (4marks/4-6 minutes).

✓ In your own words describe something from the first interpretation then back it up with a quote.

✓ Then describe something from the other interpretation that is different and use a quote to prove this.



- What is the main difference between these views QUESTIONS (4marks/4-6 minutes).
- In your own words describe something from the first interpretation then back it up with a quote.
- Then describe something from the other interpretation that is different and use a quote to prove this.

- ✓ Suggest one reason why interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about... QUESTIONS (4 marks/4-6 minutes).
- ✓ Start with this sentence: "The interpretations give different views because they have used different sources".
- ✓ Then match the view in the first interpretation with one of the 2 sources on the exam. Explain how they are similar by quoting from them both.
- ✓ Then say that the other interpretation is different because it has used the other source, quote from the interpretation and the source to show how they are similar.

How far do you agree with interpretation 1/2 about...  
QUESTIONS (20 marks/30 minutes)

Use the CAKE structure.

**C-content** (in your own words what does the interpretation say about the issue named in the question)

**A-nalysis** (quote from the interpretation to prove this. You could also highlight any important terms or phrases and examine the language used - use your English skills!)

**Knowledge** (what own knowledge do you have to back up or criticise the interpretation?)

**E-valuation** (in conclusion, how far do you agree or disagree?)



# Information Technology

## Exam Tips



- ☒ Read all the information in and around the question. Check for follow through marks in next question this might give you a clue.
- ☒ Have you answered every question? A guess may get you a mark.
- ☒ Is it an explain keyword? Remember to use an example in context.
- ☒ Learn your key terms for the 6-mark questions – use them correctly.
- ☒ Read and re-read the question. Highlight the key information and command words.
- ☒ Leave no blank questions – especially tick boxes!

## TA 1 – Design Tools

- ☒ Know your four design tools – be able to give examples of when to use them.

## TA 2 – Human Computer Interfaces

- ☒ Be able to explain the purpose of Human Computer Interfaces (HCI) in everyday life.
- ☒ Consider Hardware and Software need.
- ☒ What are your Interaction Methods (G,K,M,T,V)

### TA 3 – Data & Testing

- ✓ What is the difference between Data and Information?
- ✓ Know the Information Formula (Information = Data + [structure] + [Context])
- ✓ What is validation and verification? What is their purpose?
- ✓ Know your Data Validation tools.
- ✓ Know your primary and secondary data collection methods.
- ✓ Pro/Con of Storage Devices
- ✓ Be able to describe the 3 types of test data and explain examples.
- ✓ Explain the difference between user and technical testing.

### TA 4 – Cyber Security & Legislation

- ✓ Definition and Impact of Cyber Attacks
- ✓ Types of cyber-attacks and their defences.
- ✓ What hats do hackers wear?
- ✓ Know your 5 Key Legislations

### TA 5 – Digital Communication

- ✓ The purpose of each type of digital communication
- ✓ Characteristics of the different distribution channels
- ✓ Advantages and disadvantages of different digital communication methods

### TA 6 – Internet of Everything (IoE)

- ✓ Definition and Impact of Cyber Attacks
- ✓ Types of cyber-attacks and their defences.
- ✓ What hats do hackers wear?
- ✓ Know your 5 Key Legislations

# Maths Exams

You will have 3 maths exams

First paper is Non-calculator

All papers are **1 hour 30 minutes**

Second and third paper are calculator papers

## Exam Tips



- ☒ **Practice, practice, practice** – consistent practice is essential for improving your problem solving skills.
- ☒ **Get support – ask lots of questions** and seek support when you need it from your teacher and your friends.
- ☒ **Understand the fundamentals** – ensure you have a good grasp of the core concepts and formulas in maths.
- ☒ Complete **every** question – even if you aren't sure, never leave an answer blank!
- ☒ **Complete past papers** – familiarise yourself with the format and types of questions that appear in maths exams.



## How to succeed in Maths

- ✓ **Work hard** every lesson.
- ✓ Ask for **support** when you need it.
- ✓ Have a **growth-mindset** - if you are finding things hard, you might just not understand it yet!
- ✓ Complete our compulsory **Sparx homework** every week and make a note of questions you could not complete and ask your teacher to help you.
- ✓ Be **organised** - Consider creating a **study space** at home where you do your revision and your homework.

# H.E.S.S.U

**H**ighlight the key information

Write your  
**E**quations

**S**ubstitute in your values

**S**olve (Re-arrange and calculate

**U**nits

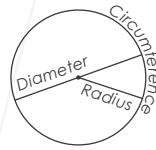


## Circles

Circumference =  $\pi \times \text{diameter}$ ,  $c = \pi d$

Circumference =  $2\pi \times \text{radius}$ ,  $c = 2\pi r$

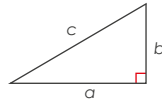
Area of Circle =  $\pi \times \text{radius squared}$   $A = \pi r^2$



## Pythagoras

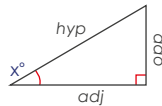
Pythagoras' Theorem

For a right-angled triangle,  
 $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$



Trigonometric ratios (new to F)

$$\sin x^\circ = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}} \quad \cos x^\circ = \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}} \quad \tan x^\circ = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}$$



## Compound Measures



$$\text{speed} = \frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}}$$



$$\text{density} = \frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}}$$



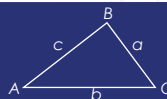
$$\text{pressure} = \frac{\text{force}}{\text{area}}$$

## Trigonometric Formulae

Sine Rule  $\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$  or  $\frac{\sin A}{a} = \frac{\sin B}{b} = \frac{\sin C}{c}$

Cosine Rule  $a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos A$  or  $\cos A = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2bc}$

Area of triangle =  $\frac{1}{2}ab \sin c$



Work hard every lesson.

Ask for support when you need it.

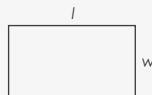
Have a growth-mindset – if you are finding things hard, you might just not understand it yet!

Complete your compulsory Sparx homework every week and make a note of questions you could not complete and ask your teacher to help you.

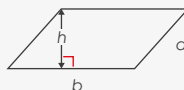
Be organised – consider creating a study space at home where you do your revision and your homework.

## Areas

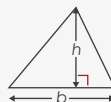
Rectangle =  $l \times w$



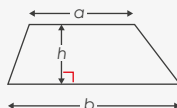
Parallelogram =  $b \times h$



Triangle =  $\frac{1}{2}b \times h$

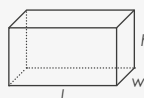


Trapezium =  $\frac{1}{2}(a+b)h$

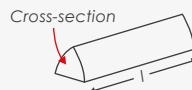


## Volumes

Cuboid =  $l \times w \times h$



Prism = area of cross-section  $\times$  length



Cylinder =  $\pi r^2 h$



Volume of pyramid =  $\frac{1}{3} \times$  area of base  $\times$  h



### Key

Foundation tier  
Formulae

Higher tier  
Formulae

## Quadratic Equations

The solutions of  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ ,

where  $a \neq 0$ , are given by  $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$



# MFL Exams

**GCSE (AQA) – all four skills equal 25% of the overall grade.**

## Foundation

---

**Listening:** 35 mins.

**Reading:** 45 mins. Inc. translation into English.

**Writing:** 1 hour, describe a photo, 40 word response, translation and 90 word response.

**Speaking:** 7-9 mins. + preparation time, Role-play, photo card and general conversation.

## Higher

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**Listening:** 45 mins.

**Reading:** 1 hour inc. translation into English.

**Writing:** 1 hour 15 mins. 90 word response, translation and 150 word response.

**Speaking:** 10-12 mins + preparation time..

### Remember:

There is a choice of questions on the writing paper (90/150 word responses) do not answer every question in the paper.

When speaking/writing always

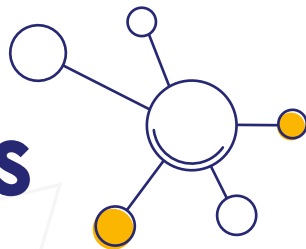
include opinions with reasons and more than one tense.

**Always allow time to go back and make sure that your writing is accurate to avoid losing marks.**

# PE/Sports Science

- ✓ **Read the question at least twice** before you start to answer it.
- ✓ **Underline/highlight** the key words in the question.
- ✓ **Look at how many marks the question** is worth, as this is how many points you will have to make.
- ✓ **Make a plan** before you start to answer the question. This will help you to structure your answer.
- ✓ **Tick off what you have used in your plan**, to make sure you have included everything.
- ✓ **Re-read the question** and your answer before you move onto the next question.
- ✓ **Attempt all questions**; if you are unsure have a guess.
- ✓ **Write in full sentences.**
- ✓ **Once you have answered** all of the questions, go back to the beginning of the test paper and re-read the question and your answer for each question.
- ✓ **Double check** that you have made the correct number of points for the marks available and given examples if required.
- ✓ **Revision Cards** – Key words and diagrams on one side, definition on the other side.
- ✓ **Mind maps** – Highlight key information related to a topic.
- ✓ **GCSEPOD, TEAMS, Past Papers**

# Science Exams



### Exam Tips

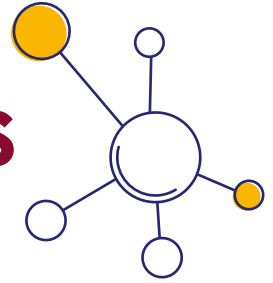


- ☒ For each Science examination you will have approximately one minute per mark.
- ☒ Make sure you've read all the information above and in the question. This is important and often gives some big clues.
- ☒ RTQ - Read the question, underline the key command words and circle any other relevant information. Check how many marks are available for the question.
- ☒ Answer the question you have actually been asked – not the one you think you have been asked.
- ☒ Don't forget to use the periodic tables and equation sheets given to you in your exam.

### To Solve Calculation Questions:-

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Choose the correct equation.                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute the numbers into the equation.                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rearrange the equation using the triangle method. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use your calculator to solve. You do not have to do it in your head. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check all your units are correct.                 |  |

# Science Exams



## Checking Your Work In Exams

- ☒ **Have you answered everything?** Even a guess may get you a mark.
- ☒ **If it is a 3 mark question** - Have you written 3 good reasons etc . . .?
- ☒ **Check** spelling, punctuation and grammar in 6 mark questions.
- ☒ **Re-read every question** to check you have understood what you were asked to do.
- ☒ **Check every unit** is correct on your answers.
- ☒ **Re-check** calculations.
- ☒ **Confirm** that you have answered data and analysis questions accurately.
- ☒ **DON'T just flick through the pages** – this is a waste of time.

Success in

# Music



You will have 1 hour 30 mins to answer 8 questions. As it is a listening exam, you will have to follow the timings on the CD as you work through the questions.

For each question you will be played an extract of music, and you will hear it 3 or 4 times. The music will be taken from one of our areas of study. The introduction may tell you what genre of music is, or that may be part of the question.

---

## How to gain marks for the short answer questions:

Remember the 4-part question method: **FILM**

**FEATURES** What are we being asked to listen out for?

**INSTRUMENTS** Which part(s) are we being asked to listen to?

**LOCATION** Where in the music are we listening?

**MARKS** How many points do we need to make?

Check the question while it is being read and make sure you have identified FILM. Annotate your question paper so you can easily find the answers when you are listening.

---

## How to gain marks for the short answer questions:

Listen when the questions are being read to you, and use the time to annotate the questions. Some of them you may even be able to answer before the first playing of the extract.

Don't leave any gaps. If you are unsure leave the question until the end, go back to it and if you still don't know, try! Every mark could make the difference!

## How to gain marks for the long answer questions:

Your 6- and 9-mark answers are checked for “quality of written communication”. If your answer is all in bullet points you cannot achieve more than half the possible marks.

### Make sure you:

- ☑ Plan your answer before you start writing in sentences
- ☑ Annotate the question so you are sure what you have to cover in your answer
- ☑ Link your answer back to the topic in the question
- ☑ Try to structure your answer in a logical order (either by feature or chronologically)
- ☑ Read back through your answer to check for errors and repetition

## How to gain marks for the dictation questions:

This can be the hardest part of the exam, but is usually worth up to 10% of the total marks, so it is vital you give it a good go. You may be asked to notate a melody or a bass line.

### Make sure you:

- ☑ Mark the score the first time you listen, to show if the notes go higher (↑) , lower (↓) or stay the same (-)
- ☑ Second listen: try to identify if the notes move by step or leap. If they are stepwise, you can start to fill in your answer
- ☑ Third listen: check your melody/bass line from the end note as well as the starting point. If you've finished in the right place it's a pretty good hint you've got it right!

# Chunking

**Chunking is breaking up a big piece of information into smaller chunks rather like steps in a ladder. It can be used for numbers and words. Often students use bullet points to break up information.**

The average person can take in four numbers or words at a time, can concentrate on revision for a maximum of 45 minutes at a time and remembers information best shortly before bedtime.

## Chunked

- Remember 4 words/numbers at a time.
- Revision max 45 mins.
- Remember best before bedtime.



# Mnemonics

**Mnemonics help you to remember by using short words that stand for something to help you.**

Here is a Mnemonic for REVISION.

- R** Rest
- E** Exercise
- V** Variety
- I** Imagination
- S** Structure
- I** Individual
- O** Ongoing
- N** Not too long

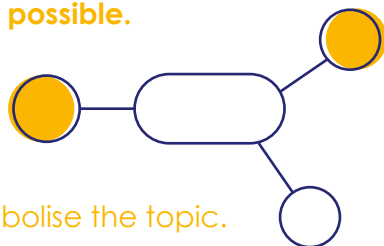


# Association

Association helps a lot of people to remember, because it is much more powerful when we use our imagination. The idea is to link objects and ideas to each other in the craziest way possible.

## Mind Maps - The Rules

- Use paper in landscape.
- Have a central image to symbolise the topic.
- Have wide main branches to organise ideas that taper out to the more detailed branches which have key words about the topic.



Mind maps (or spider diagrams) are good for remembering topics and sub-topics, such as characters in a book.



## Two ways to practice with cards:

- Put the answers on the back, but you will need to remember more at once before you check.
- Use a piece of paper and move down to reveal answers as you guess the contents.

## Visuals

- Make good use of drawings /diagrams in your revision.
- Use different colours.
- Replace key words /ideas /people/places with pictures.
- Create and put posters up around your home.

# Flash Cards



# Order and Sequence

**Have a look through your notes/books and order or sequence the notes.**

Place them in a logical sequence so you can see how things progress. You may find a more logical way of seeing things.

## **Reading out loud**

Read your revision notes out loud to a particular rhythm

– this could be set

by music playing in the background or tapping your foot or by walking calmly and steadily. This is a sort of walk and talk.



## **Podcasts**

Make a recording for yourself to revise from. It could be you reading your notes out loud. It could be you singing your notes.

It could be you reading and then stopping to summarise what you have read (key words, ideas, phrases, quotations)

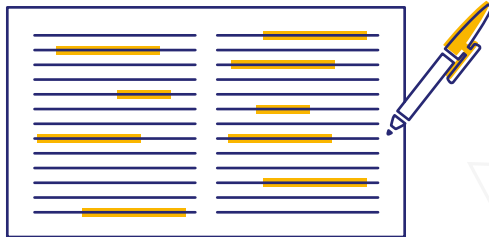
or

Asking questions on what you have covered. Listen to them as you lie in bed, walk to school, travel on the bus.

# Highlighters

As you read through your notes use different coloured highlighters to pick out key words /themes/ideas/ points etc. You could try a different colour for each theme or topic.

There are revision websites where you can read revision notes and highlight as you go. You can use very small post-its to highlight things as you go along.



# Underlining

- As you read through the work in your exercise book underline key words.



- You could come up with a predicted list before you start or you could make a list of the key words at the end.



- You could underline in different colours, patterns or lines like wiggly, thick etc.



# Mental Journey

Write information on post-it notes and place them on the wall, door, large sheets of paper etc.

You can then rearrange them according to a variety of ideas:

- Group various things together.
- Organise them into what you know and don't know rearrange as you learn more.
- Follow trends or themes.





## Question & Answer

Devise questions and answers about a topic for other people and quiz each other.

You could think of doing a "Who wants to be a millionaire" game where the questions are graded according to the difficulty you choose.

## Turn your notes into...

-  Summarise your learning in 140 characters. Include a hashtag for key words.
-  Draw an image that represents a particular topic.
-  Write a Facebook status about a character.

Remember and repeat three pieces of information after each lesson... BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're probably right.

# Summaries

# Revision Links

[www.gcsepod.com/students/](http://www.gcsepod.com/students/)

[www.sparxmaths.com](http://www.sparxmaths.com)

[www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3](http://www.bbc.com/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3)

[www.linguascope.com/](http://www.linguascope.com/)

[www.languagehut.com](http://www.languagehut.com)

## Exam Boards

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

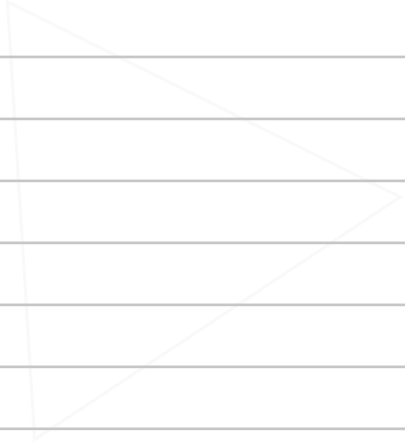
[www.Edexcel.org.uk](http://www.Edexcel.org.uk)

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

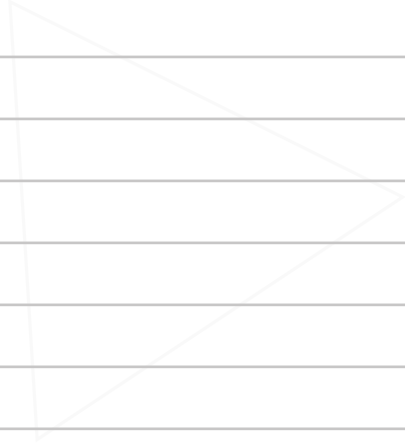
[www.cbac.co.uk](http://www.cbac.co.uk)

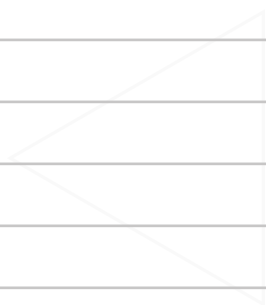
[www.wjec.co.uk](http://www.wjec.co.uk)

# Notes



# Notes







 01652 294511

 Atherton Way, Brigg, DN20 8AR

 @TVAbriigg

 [www.valeacademy.org.uk](http://www.valeacademy.org.uk)