

Useful Things to Remember in an Exam

These are just a few tips and pointers that are useful to remember in an exam. With all the pressure and expectancy that is placed on students getting ready to sit exams, it is not uncommon for them to sometimes overlook or forget key things that will save them time, marks and unnecessary stress!

When Answering Questions...

- 📖 Be aware of the number of marks available to the question you are answering! If a question is worth two marks then you need to be writing at least two good sentences with two different points both points serving to answer the question.
- 📖 Always take the time to read the question properly and notice how the question is worded. Pay particular attention to whether it is asking, 'why?' or 'how?' It is so easy to lose marks even when you know the answer to the question, just by not reading the question properly and therefore not answering it properly.
- 📖 Don't panic if you don't know to answer a question! Don't waste time worrying that you don't know what to write, because the odds are that you will be able to answer other questions in the exam very thoroughly and you will want the time to do this. Move on to the next question and then come back to anything you left unanswered when you have come to the end of the paper.

Be aware of the Time!

- 📖 It is always worth planning your time sensibly in an exam. For example, you need to leave more time to answer an essay question that is worth say 20 marks, than a shorter simple series of questions worth 2-4 marks.
- 📖 If you find yourself running out of the time you have allocated for a certain question you need to make a judgment call, but moving on to the next question will give you the opportunity to answer each question as best you can, and then if you have time at the end of the exam you can always go back and continue writing on a question you have previously left.
- 📖 Ignore everyone else in the exam room. Focus on your own answers and try not to be distracted if everyone else seems to be writing furiously!

Go back and look over your answers!

- 📖 If you have finished your exam and find you still have some time left before being told to put your pens down make sure you read through your paper! Even if you think you can write nothing else you may find spelling mistakes or unfinished sentences, which may affect your marks.
- 📖 If you have time, re-reading your answers may give you a different perspective and may even jog your memory into being able to add more to answer that you previously couldn't think of when answering the question.

- Even though you are writing as fast as you can and feel under pressure when writing in an exam, if you know that marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar in your exam then be aware of these things when you are writing and you may be able to keep marks that speed writing and pressure may have lost you