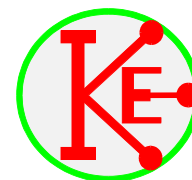


Exam Survival



- 1) Before you walk into an exam, know the basic terms examiners use to ask questions - so make sure you understand the difference between "describe" and "explain", for example.
- 2) Double check you've left your phone outside (one pupil I know was disqualified because his mother rang to check how the exam was going), and check all your equipment such as pens, pencils and calculators are working properly.
- 3) Arrive in good time for the exam. Do not be late. Go into the exam room, take six deep breaths and suck a glucose sweet (without crunching) to give your brain some extra energy.
- 4) Before starting to answer any questions, read the paper and start planning which questions you want to answer first; start with the ones you find easiest to give your confidence a boost. You don't usually have to answer the questions in a particular order.
- 5) RTFQ Read the question very carefully: you can give a brilliant answer to a question that's not been asked and you will get no marks. No question ever asks: "Write down everything you know about...". On the other hand give as full an answer as time allows.
- 6) Don't spend too long on any one question (especially the ones you know you can answer easily). Look at how many marks the question is offering you, and write your answer accordingly. There's no point in writing half a page if there's only one mark available. Try to match the number of points you make in your answer to the number of marks on offer.
- 7). For long descriptions, explanations, briefly list faintly in pencil, all of the things you want to include in any order. Then number the items. Then write your answer.
- 8) If you get stuck on a question, move on and come back to it later.
- 9) If you are told there are only 10 minutes left and you haven't tackled one or more questions, do the answer in outline. So if it's maths, show what formula you would use to get the answer rather than beginning to work it out - you'll get more marks for that than an unfinished answer.
- 10). Don't panic, though some adrenaline is useful!

Good Luck!