

MATHS EXAM TIPS

GCSEPod's Top Tips for your GCSE Maths exam

EXAM SUCCESS



REVISION

REVISE MATHS BY 'DOING MATHS'

Practise questions 'little and often' – you can't learn it all by cramming in a couple of long days. Your maths skills are like building blocks which have been developed over a long time.

IDENTIFY YOUR KEY AREAS

Use past papers and tests to identify your strengths and areas to improve.

Spend revision time on the topics that you are not good at, seeking help with these areas from teachers or the online resources that you have available to you.

LEARN THE SKILL OF 'CHECKING'

Practise checking through your work, or marking other people's work and finding errors; this will help you in your own exam.

LEARN YOUR FORMULAE

Check with your exam board to see which formulae are given and which you'll need to learn by heart.

EXAMS

REMEMBER YOUR TIMING

Don't spend too long on one question. If your calculation seems to be over complicated you may want to stop and check that you are going down the right path. The first few pages are the most important part! If time allows, go back and redo the first 6–8 pages; you are bound to have thrown away marks as you weren't fully relaxed when you started the exam.

WHAT IS THE QUESTION ASKING?

Read the question CAREFULLY and UNDERLINE key words and values. Pause to THINK about what the question is asking. decide which process you are going to use.

ACCURATE WORK

Keep your calculations neat and work down the page. Underline values that you are going to use again. Use any given diagrams and mark any information on them carefully.

SHOW ALL OF YOUR WORKING OUT

Write down everything that you are doing, even if you are able to calculate in your head. Remember to show all working on graphs and compass constructions, and label diagrams clearly.

ALWAYS HAVE A GO

If a long question seems 'too hard', try to write down something that you do know – you will pick up valuable 'method marks'. Sometimes when you come back to a question after a break it can magically make sense.