

Exam technique

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Preparation

Have a revision plan

- Know the timing
- Plot the scope of the task
- Consider the Pomodoro technique to stay on track



Preparation

Engage actively with your subject

- Pose questions and construct summaries as answers
- Be creative in revision
 - devise mnemonics, acronyms, rhymes and songs
 - Use mind maps and colourful diagrams, not just text



Preparation

Use past papers

- Learn the format
- Study the question styles
- Adapt questions for other material
- Use notes and resources to plan answers
- ‘Unzip’ answer plans (timed)



Preparation

Use other students

- Create a small study group
- Verbally present answers to practice questions
- Critique and defend



The day before

Try not to cram

- Perhaps think about broad topics
- Leaf through past papers
- Talk through ideas with others

Get an early night

- Refrain from drink and/or drugs
- If you can't sleep, don't worry



The exam

Planning

- Read all the questions before planning your move
- Don't rush in: be careful to use material appropriate to the question
- Deduce how much time you will need to answer each question, with planning



The exam

Planning (cont'd)

- Carefully plan the points you want to raise for your answer
- Consider writing all your plans before unpacking and writing in full



The exam

Answering the questions

- Refer to your plans
- Consider addressing those about which you feel most confident first
- Don't stop – even if you get stuck; move on
- Explain your answers/show your working



The exam

Running out of time?

- Can't write a full answer?
 - Provide a version of your plan or proposed answer, even as bullet points



The exam

If you finish early

- Check your working out
- Check your answers reflect your plans
- Check that the claims/points you make follow logically to your conclusions, and are clearly supported by evidence
- Make sure your arguments are valid and sound



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