# MATHS EXAM TECHNIQUE

## A visual summary for GCSE maths students

Learning and practising the maths you need to do well on your exam is only part of the journey. Having a strategy when you are in the exam is also key...

**1 BE CORRECTLY EQUIPPED**

Ensure you go into the exam with the correct equipment:

- 3 x pens with black ink
- HB pencil
- Ruler with cm and mm
- Protractor
- Eraser
- A pair of compasses

**2 KNOW YOUR FORMULAE AND CALCULATOR**

Ask your teacher for the formulae you need to be able to recall. Some are given on the same page of the question but some you will need to KNOW.

Ensure your calculator is in "degrees mode."

**3 WRITE INSIDE THE BOXES**

Each exam is scanned and only the writing inside the box will be seen.

Avoid writing outside of the box or underneath the answer line. Use HB pencil for diagrams.
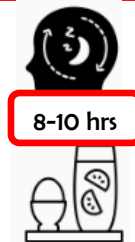
Don't forget to check the back page!

**4 HIGHLIGHT KEY INFO**

Highlight key numbers and command words. Refer back to the last sentence of the question, which usually tells you what to work out, show or the form your answer is needed in.

Do not highlight your answer—it won't scan anyway.

> When I struggle to begin a question, I come back to it, cover up the last sentence and work out everything I possibly can using the information given to try and gain some marks instead of leaving the question blank.
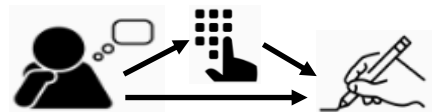
8-10 hrs

**5 THINK IT, TYPE IT, WRITE IT**

Show ALL working out in a clear, neat, logical way.

Anything you think or type into your calculator should be written down.

Put a neat line through mistakes instead of scribbling out,

**6 ONLY ROUND FINAL ANSWERS**

Do not round part way through a calculation. If you need to use this number later in the same question it makes resulting answers less accurate.

For final answers, write the full calculator display then your rounded answer underneath.

**7 CHECK YOUR ANSWERS**

Have you made a statement to answer the question if needed?

E.G. don't just write "No" or circle the best option.

Is you answer sensible?

Money should be rounded to 2 decimal places so £13.2 is £13.20

**8 MANAGE YOUR TIME**

Try to work to 1 minute per mark.

Don't spend too long struggling on a question—come back to it. Spend good time on the first half of the paper.

1 minute

1 mark

**The night before your exam get 8-10 hours of sleep. On the morning of your exam eat a nutritious breakfast.**