



Midhurst Rother College

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Mathematics

Tips which will help you do well in your Exams



Make Maths Exams work for *You!!!*

Exams can be compared to a game that can be won if you exercise the right skills and know enough tricks.

Make sure you understand what you are being taught in your lessons – if not ask lots of questions!

You must have the right skills and know the tricks to excel in exams

Below are some useful skills which will help you...

1. Make sure that you know what aspects of Maths you must revise for the exam

Make sure you have a list of all the different elements of mathematics you will need to be familiar with in order to answer the questions.

Ask your teacher to confirm that you have all the right information, especially if you have no list at all!

2. Revise

Using past Maths exam papers for your revision is a sure way of being on just the right track to do well, particularly as similar or the same questions are asked year after year but with a different '*spin*'.

Attend after college Maths sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays and/or Saturday mornings – this will most certainly give you a better chance of succeeding whatever level you are at.

If you find particular aspects difficult or don't quite understand something then try the following:-

Refer to notes you have taken in class

Search on website ***mymaths.co.uk***

Ask your teacher for help !

3. Never leave until tomorrow what you can do today...DON'T PROCRASTINATE!

Revise and review at every possible opportunity. Fix any problems you may have as they occur – don't let them build up so they start to worry you.

4. Diagrams

If an answer can be represented by a diagram, for example in the case of Pythagoras Theorem questions, then a diagram it is! It will make a professional impact and demonstrate your thought process to the examiners. Make notes on your diagrams to help you think through to the answer. Practise drawing the relevant diagrams as often as possible so they come as second nature in your exam and they appear neat and accurate.

Draw diagrams in pencil, **write** your notes, words and figures in black pen.

5. Don't Leave Any Questions Unanswered

Answer **every** question; **do not leave any questions unanswered**.

Even if you find a question puzzling **DO** make a sensible guess, you may not have the right answer, but could earn a mark for pointing in the right direction. If you do not write anything you get a straight zero score, so give every question a go – **just try!**

6. RTQ (Read The Question)

Read the instructions on the paper **very carefully**.

Read each question **step by step** so you are absolutely clear about what is expected of you.

7. sywo (Show Your Working Out)

Set out all your work carefully and neatly. Make your method clear. If the examiner can see what you have done, they will be able to give marks for the correct method even if you have the answer wrong.

8. 'Explain' should be explained!

If in a question you are asked to 'explain' something, you must obviously give reasons for your thinking to get a mark. But don't let this faze you – ask your teacher about the types of words you should use and practice explaining things so you feel really comfortable with the language.

9. Use the formulae 'gifts'

You will find a list of formulae at the front of the question paper. Make sure you know what is on it, and what is not. Write down all other formulae on the exam paper as soon as possible.

10. Using a formula

If you are using a formula, write the formula first then substitute the numbers.

If you are unable to solve the word problem with the difficult numbers try substituting them with easy numbers in their place, work out what you would do with the easy numbers, then do the same with the more difficult ones.

Find out which formulae you are expected to know and learn them

11. Is my answer sensible?

Check your answers, especially numerical ones. Are the answers sensible? This, for instance, is not:-

$10 \times 0.5 = 50$ is not sensible... because, of course, even 10×1 is only 10.

12. Your Calculator

Make sure you know how to use **your** calculator. They don't all work in the same way.

When doing a calculation, keep all the figures shown on your calculator until the end. Only round off the final answer- premature (early) approximations lead to errors.

Sometimes, in a later part of a question, you need to calculate using an earlier answer. If you use a rounded answer it could cause an error.

13. Equipment

Make sure you take all the equipment you may need to the exams:
pens, pencils, rubber, ruler, compasses, angle measurer and calculator ...

A silly thought....but so relevant....

be sure your calculator's batteries have plenty of life!

Remember to have one pen for underlining the **MATHS** content and another for underlining the **ACTION** content.

14. Units

Remember to write the correct units.

15. Tracing paper

If tracing paper is given, then expect a rotation or reflection question

16. Final Check - When you have completed the exam ...

Take a good look through each question/answer to make sure you are happy with your work.

Scan each page for presentation.

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL check to see that you have not missed out any questions, *especially on the back page.*

Remember failing to prepare is preparing to fail!

And...**the Power of 5**...Revising and reviewing work at least **5 times** creates such familiarity that it sticks and does not disappear when you switch off. Employ **5** different approaches in your review, research and revision programme...

Seeing, listening, writing, saying and doing...and don't forget to **Take 5**...revision in twenty minute chunks with **5 minute breaks** in between to refresh thinking...so there it is...**5 times, 5 techniques** and **take 5 minutes.**

Good Luck

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