

GCSE Math's Exam Techniques & Good Practice

Top Exam Techniques

1. **Estimate Your Answers** – Round numbers and estimate before solving to check if your final answer is reasonable.
 2. **Read the question carefully** – underline key words like “estimate”, “explain”, or “give your answer to 2 decimal places”.
 3. **Check Your Work** – Always review your answers, especially units, missed pages, and algebra by re-substitution.
 4. **Show All Working Clearly** – Use a new line for each step. This helps examiners follow your logic and award marks.
 5. **Don't Cross Out Unless Necessary** – Only cross out if replacing with a better answer.
 6. **Use a Familiar Calculator** – Know your calculator functions well before the exam.
 7. **Formula Sheet** – Know what is on the formula sheet before the exam.
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Good Practice During Exams

- **Read Questions Carefully** – Understand what's being asked. Look out for keywords like "calculate" or "show."
 - **Time Management** – Aim for one mark per minute. Don't spend too long on one question.
 - **Organise Your Work** – Neat layout helps you and the examiner.
 - **Don't leave blanks** – always write something; a diagram, a formula, or a short calculation might earn marks.
 - **Use your calculator wisely** – double-check answers and use the “ANS” button efficiently.
 - **Use All the Time** – Review your answers if you finish early.
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Common Mistakes to Avoid

- **Working out** - Leaving working out too messy to follow.
 - **Units** - Not writing units or converting between them.
 - **Rounding** - too early in calculator questions.
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Revision Strategies That Work

- **Past Papers Practice** – Do timed papers and review mark schemes.
 - **Topic Targeting** – Focus on weaker areas first.
 - **Spaced Repetition** – Revisit topics regularly over time.
 - **Worked Examples** – Study step-by-step solutions and recreate them.
 - Keep a “mistake log” – note down what went wrong and how to fix it.
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