

Exam Advice

Knowledge + Technique = Good Results

- Students rarely have problems because they don't know or understand the material
- Exam technique plays a big part in the outcome
 - Solid knowledge and understanding plus a planned and calm approach to the exam will give best results.

Common Problem:

- Not following the instructions
 - Read the instructions.
 - Follow the instructions!

Common Problem:

- Not attempting enough questions.
 - The first few marks on any question are trivial to get.
 - The next few marks are fairly easy to get.
 - The final few marks are hard to get.
 - Make sure to get all the trivial and easy marks by answering enough questions!

FAQ:

- Can I answer all 5 questions?
 - Yes, they'll all be marked.
 - Question 1, plus best 3 marks from section B will be used to calculate overall mark.

Common Problem:

- Not attempting all parts of a question
 - Read the question end-to-end before beginning
 - ...some change topic half way through.
 - Otherwise, as before...

Common Problem:

- Unbalanced answering
 - 4 Questions in 120 minutes = approx. 30 minutes per question
 - 100 marks in 120 minutes = approx. 1 minute per mark
 - Spend the time in proportion to the marks available!
 - Write your answers to the marks!

Common Problem:

- Doing a brain dump on the topic, but not answering the question
 - Read the question carefully
 - For Section B, read the whole question before starting.
 - Plan your answer (in rough work?) before starting to write.
 - Check off your planned answer against the question before starting to write

Common Problem:

- Not answering the question as asked
 - If asked for “four reasons”, give four etc.
 - If asked to describe, describe etc.
 - Otherwise, as before...
 - Read the question carefully!
 - Check off your planned answer against the question before starting to write

Minor Stuff:

- This is a closed book exam
 - No books
 - No notes
 - No electronic devices
- You will not need a calculator
- Bring pens, pencils, rulers etc., plus spares

Minor Stuff:

- One answer book per question
- Answer each section separately (2a, 2b, 2c etc.)
- Write as clearly as you can
- Rough work anywhere you like - just cross it out clearly