

GETTING THE REVISION RIGHT

1. Note the number of marks available

The number of marks indicates the number of distinct points you should make. For example, if the question is worth 4 marks, you will be looking to make 4 distinct points. You could use 4 bullet points to help you make 4 separate points. If the question is worth just 1 mark, you may only need to use one word for your answer. If you can't remember that word, leave it blank and come back to it later. Focus your time on the questions that are worth more.

2. Note the command words

For example, if the exam question starts with 'compare', you will need to describe similarities and differences. If the exam question asks you to 'explain' then you could use 'because' to structure your answer. Your exam board will provide a list of command words. Make sure you understand what they all mean.

3. Show your working

For maths questions, show your working as you could be given marks even if you don't get the right answer at the end. Don't cut corners as they could be worth valuable marks!

4. Extended questions

These are often the 6 mark questions in exams and can feel daunting. Never leave them blank! They can easily make the difference between grade boundaries. Pay attention to the command word and the keywords in the question and do your best. You are likely to be awarded for your written communication so don't use bullet points in these questions.

5. Give every question a go

There are often some really challenging questions in the papers. Don't leave them blank. You cannot have marks taken away so you have nothing to lose!



HANDLING THE EXAM

1. Test yourself

Testing is the best form of revision. Just reading your notes is unlikely to help you remember the information. You could test yourself using flashcards, online tools or practice questions. This also helps you to identify which topics to work on.

2. Little and often

There is a lot of content across Biology, Chemistry and Physics and you could not possibly revise it all just before the exam. Instead, plan short revision sessions every day. Plan your breaks too. Keep coming back to the same topics. This helps you remember the key information over time.

3. Learn the formulae.

Most Biology, Chemistry and Physics papers have some formulae you need to remember. Learn them. Keep testing yourself to make sure they stick.

4. Make sure you know which topics are in which paper!

Your exam board will provide information about the topics for each paper. You can use this to plan your revision, focusing on your weakest topics.



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