

## Exam Technique Checklist for GCSE Maths

- ✓ *Take this into the exam:* 2 pens, 2 pencils, sharpener, eraser, ruler with a straight edge and readable numbers, compasses, protractor with readable numbers and scientific calculator that you know how to use.
- ✓ You may *ask for tracing paper* in the exam.
- ✓ *Allocate your time per question* according to the number of marks given, e.g. 2 minutes for a 2 mark question, 5 minutes for a 5 mark question.
- ✓ *Do the easier questions first;* come back to the others later.
- ✓ *Read the question thoroughly:* Don't skim-read. Follow the words with your finger or underline words to slow you down. Look out for these phrases:
  - Estimate, approximate, or appropriate degree of accuracy
  - Significant figures or decimal places
  - State your units or give your answer in .... e.g. minutes/grams/km, etc.
  - Show your working or give a reason for your answer.
- ✓ *Write ALL workings for EVERY question,* even what you typed into the calculator.
- ✓ *Don't leave ANY question blank.*
- ✓ If you don't understand the question:
  - Is it a 'real-life' question? - Then close your *eyes and let your imagination help you.* Put yourself in that situation, 'see' the situation, pretend you are there and it may suddenly click.
  - *Go with your gut* - if it looks like an area question - find the area!
  - Think '*What Maths can I do that is related to this?*' and do that.
  - Start answering even if you don't know how to finish.
- ✓ At the end of the test check all your work. Ask yourself:
  - *Does my answer look sensible?* - use *estimates* to check.
  - *Have I answered all the parts of the question fully?*
  - *Did I give enough information/workings* for the number of marks?
  - Will a *different method* for this question give the same answer?
  - *Do I know any special checking methods for this?* E.g. simultaneous equations - substitute into the other equation, factorising - multiply the brackets out again, solving equations... Substitute your answer back into the equation and see if it works.