



## **Exam Tips**

These are our top ten tips for passing your exams.

### **1. Read Every Question Twice**

**What it is:** Re-reading the question before answering.

**How to do it:** Slowly read the question once, then pause and read it again before starting.

**Why it helps:** The first read helps you get the general idea, the second helps you spot key words like *compare*, *explain*, or *evaluate*. This reduces silly mistakes and helps you understand exactly what's being asked.

### **2. Underline or Highlight Key Words**

**What it is:** Identifying the most important parts of the question.

**How to do it:** Underline command words (like *describe*, *analyse*), subject terms, and any limitations (like *in one paragraph*, *between 1939–1945*).

**Why it helps:** It keeps your answer focused, avoids waffle, and ensures you answer the question properly.

### **3. Plan Longer Answers Briefly**

**What it is:** Taking a few seconds to jot down key points for extended answers.

**How to do it:** Use a bullet list or short notes before writing your full answer.

**Why it helps:** Planning stops you from going off track, helps structure your answer logically, and avoids forgetting key points halfway through.

### **4. Keep an Eye on the Clock**

**What it is:** Time management during the exam.

**How to do it:** Look at how many marks each question is worth and plan how many minutes to spend (1 mark = 1 minute is a good guide).

**Why it helps:** Prevents running out of time and ensures you attempt all questions, not just the first few.

## 5. Use PEEL or PEE Paragraphs

What it is: A structure for answering clearly.

How to do it:

- Point: State your main idea
- Evidence: Back it up (quote, fact, detail)
- Explain: Say why it matters
- Link: (Optional) Link to the question or next point  
Why it helps: It makes your answer clear, complete, and examiners love structure — it shows you know how to argue a point properly

## 6. Break Down Extended Questions into Parts

**What it is:** Answering longer questions in clear, ordered stages.

**How to do it:** Use phrases like *Firstly*, *Secondly*, *Thirdly* to organise your points clearly. Each part can follow the PEE/PEEL method.

**Why it helps:** This stops your answer from becoming one big messy paragraph, makes your thinking easy to follow, and ensures you develop your ideas in a logical order.

## 7. Answer the Questions You Know First

**What it is:** Tackling your strongest questions early.

**How to do it:** Do a quick scan at the start and pick questions you feel confident on.

**Why it helps:** It boosts your confidence, guarantees easy marks early on, and stops you wasting time stuck on tricky questions. Also some questions snowball and continue a theme, this can then give clues to what previous questions could be.

**Why it works:** Forces you to prioritise key information, and the reduced version is easier to revise from later.

## **8. Check the Back of the Paper**

**What it is:** Making sure you haven't missed any questions.

**How to do it:** Before handing in your paper, flick through every page.

**Why it helps:** It's shockingly easy to skip a question, especially one worth a lot of marks. This could be the easiest way to avoid losing 10+ marks!

## **9. Use All the Clues in the Question**

**What it is:** Spotting hints in the wording, images, or data provided.

**How to do it:** If a question gives you a quote, graph, or picture — use it! Don't ignore it.

**Why it helps:** Those clues are there for a reason — they can guide your answer and show the examiner you're observant.

## **10. Double Check Your Answers If You Finish Early**

**What it is:** Using spare time to improve your answers.

**How to do it:** Re-read each answer and look for spelling, missing details, or incomplete points.

**Why it helps:** This can easily bump you up a grade by fixing silly mistakes and strengthening weak answers.