

# Using exam board materials

If you learn more about what gets tested, you'll know just how to get marks.





# What are you tested on?

## Check the spec

1. Look at the exam board specifications and past papers for all your exams.
2. Specifications tell you what you need to know and how you'll be tested.
3. Past papers show you the types of questions what could come up.

## Get hyped for question types

1. Different question types come up in different exam papers e.g. you might get an extract in one English exam but not the other.
2. Make sure you know which type of questions to expect.

## Know the AO's

1. Assessment objectives are broad statements about what you need to show in your exams.
2. They differ for each GCSE, but include things like subject knowledge and analytical ability.
3. You should find out exactly which AO's are tested in each of your exams.

## What exam board are we following at OBHS?

Subject	Exam board	Subject	Exam board
Maths	AQA	Science	AQA
English	AQA	Geography	AQA
Health and social care	OCR Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care Level ½	Creative imedia production	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award
Computer Science	OCR	French and German	AQA
GCSE PE	Edexcel	Architecture	Edexcel
Food Science	Eduqas	Drama	AQA
Enterprise and marketing	OCR Level 2 Cambridge Nationa	Design Technology with timbers	AQA
Art	Edexcel	History	Edexcel
Tech award in music practice	Level 2 Technical Award in Music Practice (BTEC Pearson)	Sports studies	Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2.



# Find out what you get marks for

It's important to know exactly what to aim for to earn those all-important marks. Here are a few ways to leave the examiner giddy with delight:

For **maths** questions, make sure you know when to show your working

He needs to mix cement, sand and gravel in the ratio 1 : 3 : 5 by weight.  
Tali wants to make 180 kg of concrete mix.  
Tali has  
15 kg of cement  
85 kg of sand  
100 kg of gravel  
Does Tali have enough cement, sand and gravel to make the concrete mix?

This question is worth 4 marks – working out is needed


(Total 4 marks)

Check your writing – some humanities exams give marks for SPaG

3  
0 4  
"The failure of the Schlieffen Plan was the main reason for the stalemate on the Western Front."  
How far do you agree with this statement?  
Explain your answer.  
[16 marks] (SPaG 4 marks)

This History question – SPaG is marked

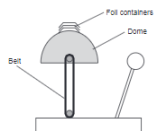
In Science and maths, make sure answers are realistic and in the correct units

SECTION B  
Answer all the questions.  
11 (a) A student uses a small motor to lift a toy car through a vertical distance of 1.0 m.  
  
(i) Calculate the work done when lifting the car through this distance.  
Answer = ..... J [3]  
(ii) Calculate the power of the motor if the car takes 5.0 seconds to travel the 1.0 m distance. State the unit.  
Answer = ..... Unit ..... [4]

This Science question requires you to know the units needed.

This Science question requires scientific terminology

Take notice of the 'command word' to understand what each question is asking you to do

10  
12 A teacher demonstrates static electricity using a Van de Graaff generator.  
She places 3 metal foil containers on top of the dome of the Van de Graaff generator. When the Van de Graaff generator is turned on, the foil containers fly off the dome one by one.  
  
(a) Explain why this happens.  
Use ideas about charge in your answer.  
This Science question uses the command word 'explain'  
[4]

This Science question uses the command word 'explain'

Be prepared for questions about 'working scientifically' in science exams



# Practice papers

Practice makes perfect – so it's important to get some done!

1. The key to successful revision is to be well prepared for the exam. To do this, you need to know what exam-style questions look like.
2. Do as many practice papers as you can – Check exam board websites for papers
3. You can warm up by using your notes to help you, but it's also important to practice under exam conditions.

## Practice under exam conditions

- Get the right equipment out.
- Time yourself
- Find somewhere quiet, with no distractions.
- Don't use your revision notes to help you.

## Use the mark scheme

- All practice papers should have mark schemes.
- These tell you how marks are allocated and how to get the right answer.
- Compare the mark scheme to what you wrote.
- Mark yourself, correcting what you got wrong.



## Check out examiners reports

- These tell you what people struggled with, and the things examiners look for
- Putting yourself in an examiners shoes helps you to see how to improve your answers.

## Do it all again

- Once you've marked your exam and figured out where you went wrong, take a break from it.
- After a day or two, do the exam again.
- This helps the right answer stick in your head.

## Don't Panic!!!!

- If you don't get a high mark at first, don't worry – the idea is to get a bit better each time