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Premium video tutorials, exam-style questions and revision resources for the 9-1 Science GCSEs

My Exam Plan 2 - Practice Questions

Welcome to **My Exam Plan 2**.

Review [My Exam Plan 1 - Revision Technique](#) before reading on. You can find exam dates for all your subjects, revision checklists and our top tips on the *best ways to revise*.

The number 1 tip for revision is practising exam questions. In this blog, we look at how to *use practice questions effectively*.

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Examiner reports

We have already summarised the key points of the examiner reports for the 2018 GCSE exams, as listed below:

- [Biology GCSE 2018 – Summary of examiners' reports](#)
- [Chemistry GCSE 2018 – Summary of examiners' reports](#)
- [Physics GCSE 2018 – Summary of examiners' reports](#)

Reading these blogs will fine-tune your knowledge and improve your exam technique so you can avoid losing easy marks. This will help you go into the 2019 GCSE exams confident and well-prepared.

Practising exam-style questions

Our examiner report blogs are full of helpful detail on the 9-1 GCSEs. But as well as specific points, examiners report the same broad problems, year after year:

- Many students don't complete the exams. They miss questions, most often at the end of the paper. ***Students run out of time.***
- Of those students that do complete the paper, many lose precious marks because they ***rush the questions.*** Again, this is a time issue.
- Finally, the most frequent point on examiner reports is that students ***don't read questions carefully*** and lose marks because of this.

How can you make sure you don't experience the same problems? By practising exam-style questions! First, practise single questions topic by topic using My GCSE Science and then practise using whole papers (past papers and specimen papers).

This is the best way of learning properly and ***also*** the best way of preparing to do the exams. You'll get to know what the exam paper looks like, see what sort of questions you're likely to get and learn how to answer those questions.

With that in mind, we have listed the three main things to remember when using practice questions to prepare for exams:

1. Use exam-style questions while you learn and revise

It's a great idea to use exam-style questions **while** you learn and revise. Then, once you've covered a topic, you instantly get a chance to see how it might be tested in an exam. This gives you an idea of how well you've understood the topic and helps you build the skills you need. You could be the brightest student ever, but if you've not seen many exam questions, you're at a serious disadvantage.

2. Use exam-style questions as a diagnostic tool

That means use practice questions to decide which areas need more revision. If you got low marks on a question on enzymes, then – guess what – the enzymes topic needs to go to the top of your revision list. If you consistently do well with questions on covalent bonding, then this topic needs less time. By using exam-style questions like this, you'll revise much more effectively because you will know where you need to spend your time. If you're not methodical, you'll waste time over-revising topics that you already know well and miss other topics that need more work.

3. Practise whole papers after you have completed revision

There's no point trying whole exam papers if you haven't covered all the material. Make sure you've been through everything at least once, either in your lessons in school or with My GCSE Science. After you've covered all the material, and done the exam-style questions on My GCSE Science, you can start doing whole exam papers. When you practise using whole papers, it's best to do them as a **timed activity** in "exam conditions" (in a quiet space, on your own, in one go). This helps you get a feel for how long you will have in the actual exam itself and how to plan your time. In real exams, you may get time reminders, but don't count on it. The longer and trickier questions (those where you have to apply knowledge) can easily drain your time.

My GCSE Science

OK, that's it for now! Remember, My GCSE Science covers the **entire specification precisely and in the right level of detail** to get the top grades at GCSE.

Our **Progress Tracker** makes your revision time-efficient by helping you to focus your work on the videos and exam-style questions covering the topics that you don't know so well.

Finally, remember to print out our [30 Minute Revision Strategy](#) which summarises our revision advice in one handy A4 sheet.