

NILE TUITION ACADEMY

Excellence in Past-Paper Practice Tuition

niletuitionacademy.co.uk

Past-Paper Practice

Train like the real exam · Study Skills

Past-Paper Practice

Study Skills

16 entries

Doing past papers under real conditions, then marking them properly, is how you turn knowledge into marks. Here is how to get the most from every paper.

Why it works

It tests the right thing	Revising notes tells you what you recognise. A paper tells you what you can actually produce on the day, which is the only thing that earns marks.
You learn the question style	Each board asks things in its own way. The more papers you do, the faster you spot what a question is really after and what the examiner wants back.
It builds exam stamina	Sitting still and thinking hard for two hours is a skill. You train it by doing full papers, not by reading for ten minutes at a time.

Before the paper

Pick the right paper	Use papers from your exact board and tier. Print the question paper and the separate mark scheme, and keep the mark scheme face down until you finish.
Set the real time limit	Find the official length and set a timer for it. Work out the rough minutes per mark so you know how long each question should take.
Clear your desk	Sit somewhere quiet with only the equipment the exam allows. No phone, no notes, no music with words. Make the practice feel like the real room.

During the paper

Keep to the timer	If a question is eating your time, leave a gap and move on. A finished paper with one blank beats a half-finished one where you ran out.
Read the command word	Describe, explain, evaluate and compare all want different answers. Underline the command word and the marks available before you start writing.
Attempt everything	A blank scores zero, but a sensible attempt often picks up a mark or two. If you are stuck, write what you do know and move forward.
Show your working	In maths and science, method marks are there even when the final answer is wrong. Set out each step so the marker can follow your thinking.

Marking it properly

Mark against the scheme	Use the official mark scheme line by line. Give yourself a mark only where you wrote what it actually credits, not where you think you were close.
Be strict with yourself	If you would not award the mark to a stranger, do not award it to yourself. Honest marking now saves you from a nasty shock in the real exam.
Read the examiner report	These reports tell you where most students lost marks and what good answers looked like. They are free advice from the people who set the paper.

Turning mistakes into marks

Do a green-pen redo	Switch to a green pen and write the correct, full-mark answer next to each one you got wrong. Doing it yourself fixes it far better than just reading the scheme.
Track your weak spots	Keep a short list of topics and question types that keep costing you. That list becomes your revision plan for the next week.
Redo it later	Come back to the same paper a week or two on and resit the questions you missed. If the marks have gone up, the gap has actually closed.