

Examination Technique

(Adapted from 'Top Physics Grades for You' by Keith Johnson, ISBNs : AQA Modular 0 7487 9583 9 AQA Coordinated 0 7487 9598 8 published 2005 by Nelson Thornes Ltd.)

Answering the questions

Structured questions

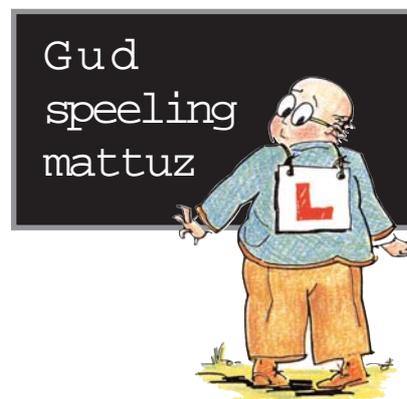
- Make sure you know exactly what the question is asking.
- Ring or underline the key words, as shown in this example:
- Look for the number of marks awarded for each part of the question. For example (2 marks) means that the Examiner will expect 2 main (and different) points in your answer.
- The number of lines of space is also a guide to how much you are expected to write.
- Make sure that you use any data provided in the question.
- Pace yourself with a watch so that you don't run out of time. Spend the right amount of time on each question. For example in AQA exams you should aim to use 1 minute for each mark. So if a question has 3 marks it should take you about 3 minutes.
- In calculations, show all the steps in your working. This way you may get marks for the way you tackle the problem, even if your final answer is wrong. Make sure that you put the correct units on the answer.
- Try to write something for each part of every question.
- Follow the instructions given in the question. If it asks for one answer, give only one answer.
- If you have spare time at the end, use it wisely to check your answers.

Calculate the potential difference across a $5\ \Omega$ resistor when a current of $2\ \text{A}$ is passing.



Extended questions

- Some questions require longer answers, where you will need to write two or more full sentences.
- The questions may include the words '**Describe...**' or '**Explain...**' or '**Evaluate...**' or '**Suggest...**' or '**Why does...**'.
- Make sure that the sentences are in good English and are linked to each other.
- Make sure you use scientific words in your answer.
- As before, the marks and the number of lines will give you a guide of how much to write. Make sure you include enough detail with at least as many points as there are marks.
- For the highest grades you need to include full details, in scientific language, written in good English, and with the sentences linking together in the correct sequence.



There are more Hints & Tips in 'Top Physics Grades for You'. See details and get free revision stuff at www.physics4u.co.uk