

Using **past papers** to boost your revision



Past paper practice is not:

A test to see what you can remember.



Past paper practice is:

A revision technique that should be used for developing exam techniques and practising recall.



Past paper practice should:

Be completed with revision notes to begin with. Then, as you get used to the style of questions, it can be used to identify topics that need revising.

Increasing expertise and confidence



Stage 1: Using revision resources

Choose 1-3 questions at a time, do not attempt to complete a whole paper.

Use your resources to try and answer the questions, then improve the answers by using the markscheme.

Stage 2: Be specific — try to not use resources

Choose a specific topic or style of question, for example 'calculate..', or 'describe...'.
Try to answer questions without any resources. However, if you get stuck, use a resource as a prompt to help you remember.

Give yourself 5 lives before starting. When you check your resources, take off a life. When you repeat the process, reduce the number of lives.

Stage 3: Using questions to identify areas of focus

Without any resources, set yourself a time limit of 1 hour.

Try following this schedule:

- 0-5 min:** Get everything you need (e.g pens, pencils, calculator...).
- 5-35 min:** Answer as many questions as possible.
- 35-40 min:** Have a five minute break.
- 40-50 min:** Mark and improve.
- 50-60 min:** Identify areas that need to be worked and add them to your revision schedule.