

Things to practice before you take your GCSE maths exam

- **Times tables** -you might think you know these but check before you take your exam (this will help with multiples, factors, sequencing, factorising)
- **Calculation methods** -make sure you are confident with at least one method for each operation before the non-calculator paper
- **Negative numbers** – practice calculations with these as they often catch people out
- **Decimals** – when calculating with decimals make sure you are confident with rounding to the nearest decimal point
- **Finding percentages** – of amounts and increases and decreases. Have strategies ready for working out percentages without a calculator (eg 15% is 10 % + 5% (5% is half of 10%))
- **Converting percentages to decimals and fractions etc** – this will make calculating percentages easier and help with probability questions
- **Rounding to estimate** – this could be to work out an approximate area of a shape or a calculation, but is a useful skill to have for the exam as it can help you to predict what the right answer to a question could be (eg 45% of £180 is nearly half (50%) so we know the answer will be a little under £90 – it is actually £81)
- **Measuring accurately**- lines, angles, distances on a scale map and reading scales
- **Drawing accurately**-lines, angles, construction lines, circles, 2-D/3-D shapes, plans and elevations
- **Converting measurements**- mm/cm/m/km - mg/g/kg – ml/l and understanding the imperial equivalents to metric units of measurement
- **Calculating measurements** – including perimeter, area, volume, capacity (volume of liquid) and surface area
- **Reading timetables** – planning journeys and calculating journey times/time differences
- **2-D and 3-D shapes** – these can come up in a variety of ways in the exam so it is advisable to be sure of the names and properties. (eg. If you were working out the surface area of a cuboid, it would help to know that it has 6 faces). Also learn what type of shapes tessellate and how to recognise and draw plan views and elevations
- **Reading graphs and charts**- a lot of marks can be gained just by reading a graph or a diagram carefully. Looking over many examples can also help you to draw suitable ones in questions where you have to display data
- **Working out averages** –the mean, mode, median and range can come up on a variety of data questions so make sure you know how to work them all out

This is by no means an exhaustive list but tries to focus on the 'skills' needed rather than topics you need to cover.

Good luck ☺