

## Past Papers

Ultimately in an exam you are going to be faced with exam questions. Each exam is worded differently and different subjects are looking for different skills. The only way to be comfortable and ready to answer every style of question is to complete as many you can before. Many of our subjects have posted links to past papers or exam questions on our website, or ask your teacher.

## **Best Practice**

- Make sure you have the correct exam board, unit, topics and tier (if applicable). Check with your teacher if you are unsure.
- 2. Time yourself. Each paper has the time given on the front, make sure you stick to it.
- 3. Use the mark schemes to check your answers, highlight anything you got wrong or missed out, this can be used to help your revision.
- 4. If there is an examiner's report read it. This can give clues about how to answer well and avoid common mistakes.
- Make sure you practice writing in full sentences. A lot of revision is notes and bullet points but you need to keep practicing how you structure sentences and paragraphs.
- Repeat, repeat, repeat. Remember to go back to different topics and practice different areas. Leave days between practice to help you remember.

## Some useful command words

•Describe: say what you see - no need for reasons

•Explain: give reasons

•Outline: give a brief summary

•Analyse: go into detail

•Compare: what are the similarities and differences?

•Contrast: what are the differences?

•Calculate: use numbers given to work out the value of something

•Define: give the meaning of something

•Evaluate: consider pros and cons

•Justify: give evidence to explain something

•To what extent: Judge the importance or success of something - has it worked or not

•Argue: present a case with evidence or reasons

•Assess: Weigh up / give an informed judgement

•Comment on: give your opinion on something

•Debate: give different perspectives



Quite often students make lots of mind maps, lists, or flash cards but don't really do anything with the information.

You don't need to complete each step for all your information. However, the more you do the more effective you will be in an exam.