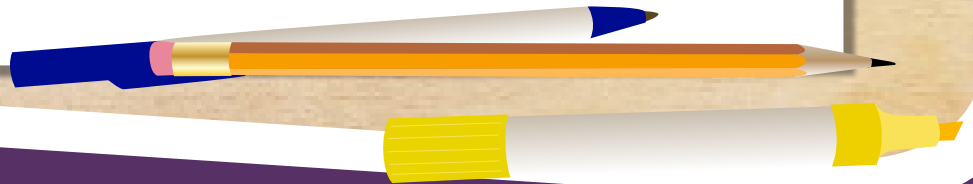


# **SQA Study Guides**

## Past Papers

One of the best ways to prepare for any exam is to work through past question papers.

- Look for a range of past papers for each subject you're studying, especially papers from the past 3 or 4 years.
- Check to make sure that the syllabus hasn't changed since the past papers were published.
- Ask your teachers or course leader for help and guidance on which past papers are most useful
- You can find lots of past papers at [www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers](http://www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers)



Past papers are a real test of how much you've actually learned so it's best to start tackling them once you've built up a good knowledge base.

- Use past papers to identify any weak points or gaps in your knowledge.
- If you do struggle with some topics, increase your revision in that area.
- Aim to increase your proficiency and confidence with past papers and aim to improve your overall score each time.



When you are tackling a past paper it really helps to try to replicate exam conditions as much as possible.

- Choose a quiet place where you won't be disturbed.
- Always try to complete the paper in the time that is allocated.
- Try not to use reference books or notes – you won't have access to these in the real exam.



Once you've completed a past paper, it becomes a useful indicator of how well prepared you are for the real exam.

- If you have the paper's marking scheme, review your answers and work out your mark.
- Make an honest assessment of where you went wrong and make a list of the things you need to study in more detail.
- Once you're ready, tackle the same exam paper from a different year and see if you can improve your marks.

