

# How to Unpack an Exam Question



- 1. Highlight or underline the command word** (e.g., *explain, analyse, compare*) – this tells you exactly what you need to do.
- 2. Identify the key topic/focus** of the question – what is it really asking about?
- 3. Break the question into parts** if it includes more than one element (e.g., cause *and* effect)
- 4. Check for time period, source, or context clues (subject specific)** – these shape how you should answer.
- 5. Rephrase the question in your own words** to make sure you understand it.
- 6. Note the number of marks** – this gives a clue about how much detail or how many points you need.

## How to Use Exam Questions in Revision



- 1. Practice planning answers** before writing them – focus on structure, key points
- 2. Write timed answers** to improve speed and exam technique.
- 3. Use mark schemes and examiner reports** to see what good answers include.
- 4. Review model answers** and compare them to your own – what can you improve?
- 5. Turn topics into questions** yourself, then try answering them.
- 6. Use past paper questions to test your recall** after revising a topic – not before.
- 7. Peer mark with a friend or in study groups** to share feedback and spot strengths/gaps.

# Where can you find exam questions and mark schemes?

Maths	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html</a>
English	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes">https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes</a>
Science	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes">https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes</a>
History	<a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/">https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/</a>
Geography	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes">https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes</a>
PRE	<a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/">https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/</a>
French	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes">https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes</a>
Spanish	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes">https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes</a>
Drama	<a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/">https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/</a>
Dance	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes">https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes</a>

Business Studies	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html</a>
Music	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html</a>
Design and Tech	<a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes">https://www.aqa.org.uk/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes</a>
Food Tech	<a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/">https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/</a>
PE	<a href="https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html">https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/exams/past-papers.html</a>
Computer Science	<a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/past-paper-finder/">https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/past-paper-finder/</a>
Media	<a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/">https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/past-papers/</a>
Child Development	<a href="https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/past-paper-finder/">https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/past-paper-finder/</a>