Preparing for examinations

You know you have exams coming up. You know you want to do well.

You know you can do a lot to get yourself ready...

The exams are important but they are not everything.

Ask yourself some questions:

- What do the exams mean to you?
- How do you feel about the exams?
- What can you do to get ready for the exams?

WANT TO WRITE GOOD RESPONSES TO WACE EXAM QUESTIONS?

You can check out past examination papers on our website. Use them to practise answers.

You might also find the Guide to Grades resource useful. It provides work examples of different grades and levels of achievements. Check out Guide to Grades on our website.

Ask your teacher about the Standards Guides for the WACE examinations. These contain thousands of marks/merit responses complete with marker notes and examiners’ comments. For more information and some sample extracts head to www.scsa.wa.edu.au/students/your-development/study-helps.

Check with your teachers for the complete Standards Guides.

Ask for help!

- Don’t get hung up on a problem.
- Work out the part that has you stumped. Make a note of it and put the problem aside.
- Move on to the next point and the problem aside.
- Don’t answer the question you wish you had been asked.
- Exam markers have guidelines they have to use. They cannot guess your potential. You need to demonstrate what you know and you are able to do through the questions set in the exam paper.

WRITE LEGIBLY

Markers will not be able to decipher writing that is illegible. Practise writing legibly under pressure.

SAVE TIME FOR EDITING

Budget some time at the end of the exam to read through your answers. Focus on picking up any careless errors with calculations, spelling and grammar. Work out your editing time when planning how to approach the exam. Avoid using this time to finish the writing time draws to a close.

Know what is in the exam.

The exams don’t suddenly appear from nowhere. You can see them on the horizon from quite a way back. Make the most of your study time to be as ready as you can be.

In the examination

USE YOUR READING TIME

You can’t write anything during reading time but you can think about your answers! What questions do you plan to answer? Where will you begin? Decide now how you will approach the paper.

INVEST TIME IN PLANNING

While your ideas are fresh from reading time... Take a couple of minutes to jot them down. Sketch out a plan for your responses. Order your points logically so your arguments will be well developed.

DIVIDE YOUR TIME INTELLIGENTLY

Consider the suggested working time for each section. Factor some checking time into this working time. Balance your time... spending a lot of time answering a question worth five marks and then hardly any time on a question worth twenty marks is not likely to add up well.

ANSWER THE QUESTION ASKED

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EAT A BALANCED DIET

Fall as well as you can.
- Eat a well balanced diet.
- Have regular meals.

SLEEP WELL

Get adequate sleep early nights.
- Get adequate sleep early nights.
- Have a regular sleep routine.
- Don’t leave it in for so or between studying and going to bed.

RELAX AND HAVE FUN

Take part in social activities.
- Relax time for your family and friends...they are an important part of your life.
- Having fun makes it easier to study... especially if you know your reward for studying well will be more fun.
- Look forward to any leisure time you have when you have reinvigorated and refreshed.

Be balanced

• Take regular breaks
• Don’t forget to take a break when your work time is over.
• Take a passage break for 30 minutes or so every hour.
• Don’t overwork and work in a well lit space...
• Note of it. Put your note down to leave your eye when you take a passage break...
• Sometimes you can be brain dead.
• Be kind to your eyes.
• Ask for help when you need it.

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