



## TOP TIPS FOR MAXIMISING YOUR POTENTIAL

### Plan revision early

Set aside the time for work and stay focussed

Polish your skills using the exam practice questions

Work on your weaknesses

### Using SAM Learning to identify your weaknesses

Knowing where to start revising is something that we all struggle with. Until we have the exam paper in front of us we have no way of knowing what we will be asked. Therefore, it is important to be as prepared as possible for every eventuality.

### So where do I start?

The *easiest* thing to do is to start with what we already know. However, that is probably not the *best* place to start as you already know that. You need to be able to identify what your weaknesses are and start with those. If you don't and those topics come up on the paper, you won't be prepared for them.

### STEP 1

Log on to [www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com)



Select > [My Progress](#)

Choose > [Academic Year](#)

Choose > [Subject](#)

On the left-hand side of the screen you should see the correct academic year. You should also see GCSE, the subject name and All



Academic Year  
2013 - 2014 ▾  
Subject  
GCSE ▾  
Maths ▾  
All ▾  
Apply

Go to the Subject Box

Select > [All](#)

Select > [Apply](#)

This will give you a list of all the activities that you have completed in every subject area

## How Do You Know That You Know It?

Knowing where to start revising is just the first hurdle to overcome. You will have been given revision guides; you will have revision notes from your lessons and you will be directed to a different website for each subject that you take.

You have a wealth of resources to study from but How Do You Know That You Know It? Being tested on what you have revised, with no cheating, is essential. It's not always possible to have a second person there testing us as we go along. SAM Learning can help you Know That You Know It!

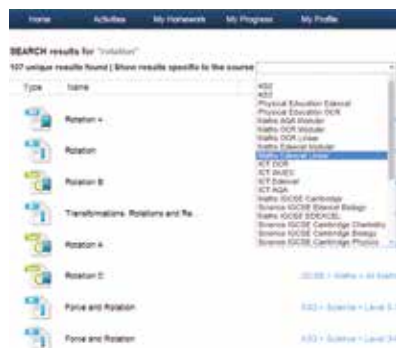
### STEP 2

Exercise name	Type	Number Of Attempts	First score	Last score	Best score	RAG
Home and Family - Jean-Lucet sa famille	101	1	40	40	40	RED
Number - Place Value	101	1	84	84	84	GREEN
Chemical and Material Behaviour - Particle Modelling: Solids, Liquids and Gases	101	1	50	50	50	AMBER

Identify all the **RED** areas because these are the topics you don't know very well. This is a great starting point  
Next work through **AMBER** areas - you know a lot of this but not all of it

Lastly, focus on the **GREEN** areas, as you know these already

### STEP 3



If for example you have been studying Rotation for your Maths GCSE type the word Rotation into the Key Word Search and select **> Search**

This will then bring up all the SAM activities for Rotation. Select your exam board from the drop-down menu

This will then list all the SAM activities that are specific to your exam board

Work through each activity taking note of the questions you get wrong

Go back and do more revision on the areas you got wrong

Go back to the same activity and test yourself again

Repeat this process for every activity on Rotation

## The Right Way to Prepare

### Plan it early

You'll find that short sessions (30 minutes to 1 hour) are likely to be the most helpful. When you work for longer, your concentration levels drop. It's better to take a short break or revise something different.

### Treat it like training

An athlete works hard on improving skills when training for a big event. The best athletes practise more not less! Champion pole-vaulters don't read a book about it – they practise jumping! So polish your skills by using SAM Learning for exam practice. After you've had a go, read through the solution and check it against what you've done. This will help you to deliver the sort of answer the examiner is looking for.

### Work on those strengths and weaknesses

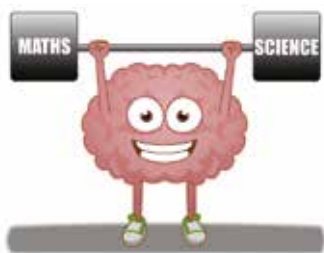
You must continue to revise the things you are good at, keeping your techniques polished just like the athlete practising for his event, but don't avoid your weaknesses.

Our pole-vaulter in training (or in competition) doesn't expect to clear the bar at every attempt. If he does, the bar has been set too low and he'll never be a champion. Instead, our athlete looks at his failures and finds ways to improve techniques.

Every weakness you identify is an opportunity to gain an additional mark when you master it. Use revision exercises on the SAM Learning website to help you overcome weaknesses. Remember: one mark in each lesson or revision session could be all that is needed to take you up a whole grade.

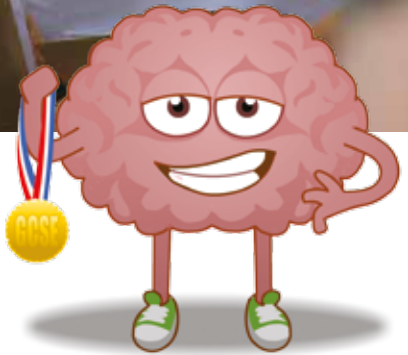
### Don't forget to practise

Try some exam practice after revision exercises. Get those extra marks by seeing what examiners are looking for!



**IF YOU  
DON'T GET  
100%  
YOU DON'T  
KNOW IT!**

## THE EXAMINATION



### In advance

- Check when and where the exam is to be held. Your school can only let you sit the exam at the specified time
- Make sure you know your centre and candidate numbers. These are given to you. Ask if you don't know
- **Bring the equipment you need:** pen, pencil, ruler, compasses, calculator, protractor and rubber

### Calculator tips

- Make sure that you can use your calculator efficiently
- Do buy a new set of batteries. Do not run out of power on the day!
- Do not buy a new calculator just before the exam as a lack of familiarity with equipment may cost you time and marks

### During the exam

- Before you start writing, read the exam paper carefully. Look at the mark scheme and word limits for each question so that you can allocate your time wisely
- Now, take deep breaths and try to relax

- Ensure that you write in black ink or black ball-point pen. Draw diagrams in pencil
- You don't have to start at the beginning. Choose a question that you feel confident with to get you started.
- Once you have finished, remember to re-read the question and your answer to ensure that you have included all of the valid points
- Check again to ensure that you haven't missed anything out