Exam Advice for Students with SEN

Many of our students with SEN have special access arrangements for the exams. The Joint Council Qualifications Council decide on the arrangements that each student can receive based on their needs.

These arrangements could be a separate location, a reader (reading pen), a scribe, a laptop, extra time or a combination of these.

It is really important that students use these arrangements to give the best opportunity to succeed.

A reading pen allows students to scan the question and hear the words to help them to process the information.

A scribe will write the exact words that the students give as their answer so students need to think through their answer before asking their scribe to write an answer.

A laptop is available for students whose writing is difficult to read to allow examiners to be able to understand the answers. It is important students check spelling and make sure they clearly put the question number they are answering.

Extra time (25%) this is to give students reassurance, longer to read question to fully understand, longer to plan answer, longer to ensure handwriting legible and longer to proof read and check answers. It is important that students take advantage of this time so they can maximise their chances of success.

Tips for revision

After a one-hour revision lesson:

10 minutes later revise the topic for 10 minutes

1 day later revise the topic for 5 minutes

1 week later revise the topic for 2-5 minutes

1 month later revise the topic for 2-5 minutes

Before exams revise the topic as required.

Each time knowledge is reinforced; it enters deeper into the long-term memory and becomes more stable.

Different students have different preferred methods for revision, help them find the best way to revise for them. Encourage them to revise regularly with frequent breaks.

Different revision methods

Auditory learners prefer to:

- ❖ Say their work aloud
- ❖ Give presentations to an imaginary audience
- ❖ Record notes on a tape recorder
- ❖ Use silly noises to remember things
- ❖ Hear the information in their mind

Visual learners prefer to:

- ❖ Draw pictures and diagrams
- ❖ Colour code their work
- ❖ Use different coloured paper, pens etc
- ❖ Use their own system of symbols etc
- ❖ Create images and scenes in their minds

Kinaesthetic learners prefer to:

- ❖ Do actions when learning key facts
- ❖ Walk about when learning
- ❖ Find it harder to sit at a desk
- ❖ Add emotions and textures to exaggerate information