



Exam Tips

Exams can be a nervous time; this sheet offers some advice.

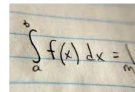
Before the exam

- Have breakfast, it is the most important meal of the day!
- Make sure you know when your exam starts, its location (room number) and leave plenty of time to arrive. Have your ID card and personal candidate number.
- Have the right equipment with you - pens, pencils, rulers, calculators etc... take spares in case your pen runs out



During the exam

- Look through the whole exam paper at the beginning, don't dive in and start answering. Mark the difficult questions and note down initial thoughts.
- **Read the questions** carefully and follow instructions
- Select the questions that will best demonstrate your knowledge
- Jot down notes before you answer the question - do a rough plan
- Don't write down everything you know - make sure you are answering the question
- Answer the questions you know more about first - this will build your confidence
- Write neatly
- If you are doing a Math exam show your working out
- Take a deep breathe and relax
- Keep an eye on the time



The Library
<http://library.northamptoncollege.ac.uk>



What does the question mean?

Make sure you understand what the question is asking you do, if not break it down.

Below are some common keywords you may see in exam questions.

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|-----------|--|
| ANALYSE | look in detail |
| ARGUE | to prove the case for something using evidence and reasoning |
| ASSESS | decide how important one thing is compared to another |
| COMPARE | look at similarities and differences - give reasons for differences |
| DESCRIBE | give full and detailed account of topic |
| DISCUSS | explore arguments for and against |
| EVAULATE | decide how good something is and back up your judgement with evidence |
| EXPLAIN | give reason for |
| SUMMARISE | give short account of the main points, leaving out detail and examples |



After the exam

- **DON'T** compare answers with friends this can cause negative feelings
- Relax and then prepare for your next exam



Good Luck

