

● HOW TO ACTUALLY USE A PRACTICE EXAM

Doing Exams Isn't Studying. Reviewing Them Is.

A practice exam only tells you your score. It doesn't teach you anything by itself — the learning happens in what you do with the questions you got wrong. This is the exact loop to run, every single time.

THE 4-STEP LOOP

1. **Sit it properly** — real timed conditions, no notes, no extra time, phone away.
2. **Mark it fully and honestly** — not just a glance at right or wrong.
3. **Log every wrong answer** — the question, what went wrong, and the correct working.
4. **Explain it in your own words** — then fix that exact topic before your next paper.

The Habit That Actually Moves Your Score

Two students can sit the same ten practice papers and land in completely different places. The difference is never the papers — it's what happens after the pen goes down.

✓ ACTUALLY REVIEWING

Every wrong answer gets a written explanation in your own words — why it happened, and what you'll do differently. The next paper starts by reading this log first.

✗ JUST DOING PAPERS

The paper gets marked, the score gets noted, and the next one starts fresh. The same mistake shows up again three exams later — it was never actually fixed.

i Tutor insight: writing the explanation in your own words is what turns "I recognise this answer" into "I could do this again cold." Copying out the worked solution doesn't do the same job.

Know Why You Got It Wrong

Not every wrong answer has the same cause — and the fix is different for each one. Naming it properly is what makes the log useful.

CS • CARELESS SLIP

You knew the method — but rushed, mis-copied a number, or made an arithmetic error. **Fix:** slow down and check.

MQ • MISREAD THE QUESTION

You solved a real problem — just not the one that was actually asked. **Fix:** read it twice before answering.

CG • CONCEPT GAP

You didn't know the method or rule needed at all. **Fix:** re-learn the topic, not just this question.

TP • TIME PRESSURE

You knew what to do, but didn't get there in exam conditions. **Fix:** drill that method until it's faster.

Your Exam Tracker

Print a fresh copy every time you mark a practice exam. Fill in the header below, then log every question you got wrong — one row each.

EXAM

SUBJECT

DATE

SCORE

/

Why codes (from Part 1): **CS** careless slip · **MQ** misread question · **CG** concept gap · **TP** time pressure

#	Q# / Topic	What Went Wrong (+ code)	Solution & Working Out	Explanation for Myself
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

THE LOG TELLS YOU WHAT'S WRONG

A repeated concept gap means you need **1-on-1 tutoring** on that topic.

If you keep getting the same topic wrong, it's not because you're not trying — it's because no one's actually taught it to you properly yet. That's what a tutor's for. Book a session and we'll help you fix it.

40+

STUDY SCORE OF EVERY LEARNIFY TUTOR

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