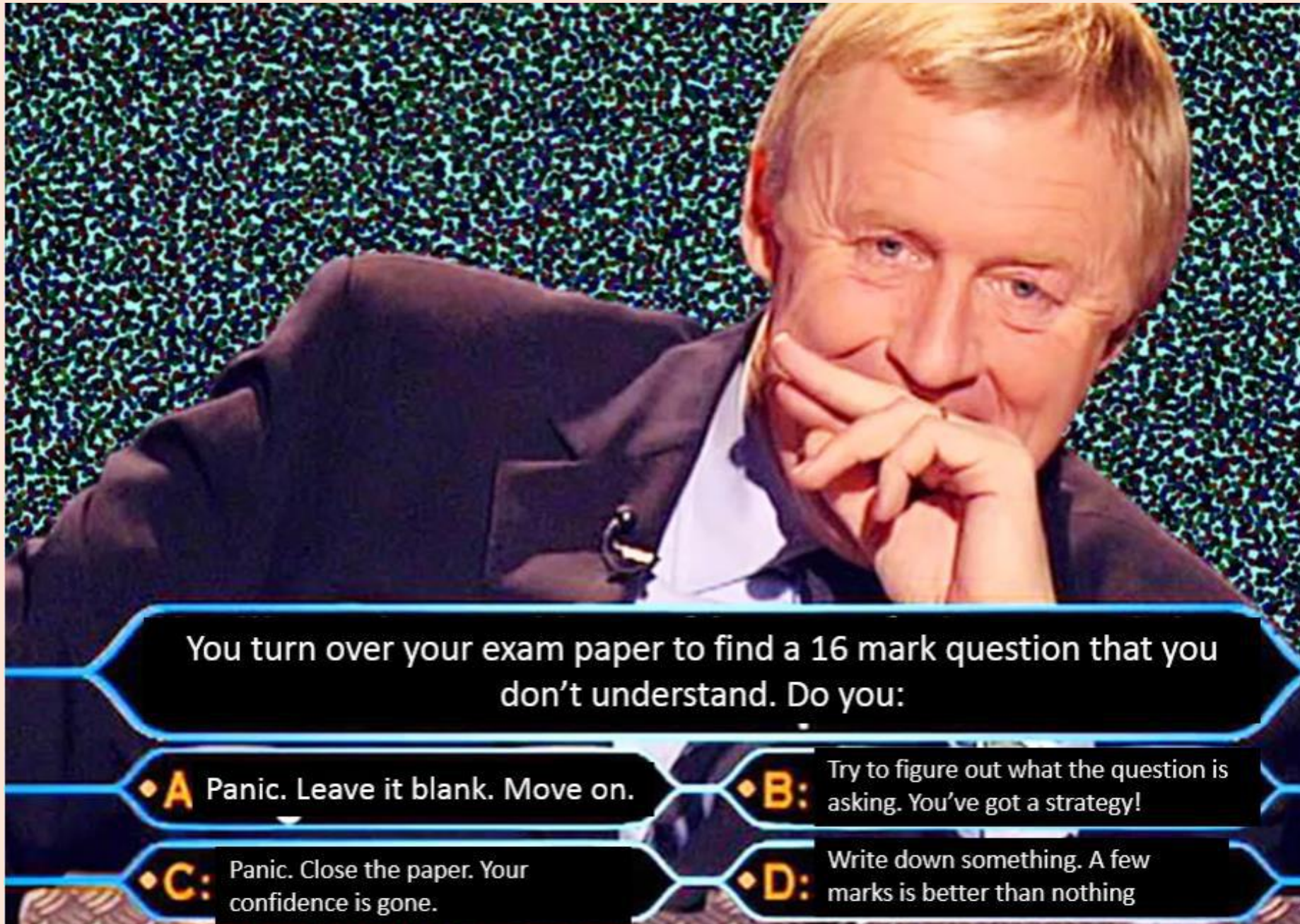# DISCUSS

You're an hour in to your exam. You're feeling confident, it's going well and you've know all the questions you've been asked so far.

The, you turn over the page ready for the next question. You read it. You panic. You try and read it again. The panic worsens. The problem? You don't understand the question. You know the topic- you remember revising it at the weekend- but you're not sure what the question wants you to do. The worst part? This question is worth 16 marks.

Do you?

You turn over your exam paper to find a 16 mark question that you don't understand. Do you:

A Panic. Leave it blank. Move on.

B: Try to figure out what the question is asking. You've got a strategy!

C: Panic. Close the paper. Your confidence is gone.

D: Write down something. A few marks is better than nothing

Which of these is more likely to happen?

Why?

Does anyone have any strategies to help them when this does happen?

Engage your metacogs!

Exam questions shouldn't be baffling! Approach them with a strategy.

Useful phrases to think to yourself:

I'm noticing that this exam question is only worth two marks.

I'm wondering if this strategy might work with a similar question.

I'm seeing that this question wants me to evaluate- I had better make sure I do.

I'm feeling confident about what I need to do for full marks here.

BUGS the question

Box the command word(s)

Underline the key words

Glance back at the question as you go

Scribble and simplify

<u>B</u>ox the command word(s)

<u>What are they?</u>

Command words are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell students how they should answer the question. NOTE: **SHOULD** answer the question. NOT **COULD**! If you don't get the command word right, you will be missing out of full marks for that question.

<u>What do I need to do?</u>
Understand what the question is asking you to do.
How many command words are there?
Are they a higher level or lower level skill?

0 5 . 1 Calculate the file size in bits for a two minute sound recording that has used a sample rate of 1000 Hertz (Hz) and a sample resolution of 5 bits.

You should show your working.

0 4 Describe two problems faced by the German government in dealing with hyperinflation.

0 1 **House and home**

Read this extract from *Realidad*, a play by Benito Pérez Galdós, and answer the questions which follow in **English.**

Specific meaning of the command words will vary across subjects. However, there are some basic patterns which will be useful for you to know.

<u>B</u>ox the command word(s)

Possible activities

What do you understand by the following command words?

Analyse

Define

Evaluate

Work out

Examine

Explain

Calculate

In pairs or small groups, try to write a definition for each of these terms.

What do they mean?

What skills does each involve?

<u>B</u>ox the command word(s)

Define
State
Describe
Name
Justify
Critically
assess
To what
extent
Assess
Explain
Give
Identify
Which?
Discuss
Advise
Predict
Evaluate
Compare
Complete

Outline
What?
Apply
Calculate
Demonstrate
Examine
Give an
example
Name
Show how
Work out
Why?
Analyse
Choose

Where should the
command words go?

HINT: Some may go
in more than one
level

Higher level
command words

Lower level
command words

<u>B</u>ox the command word(s)

Test yourself

Try to mix and match command word activity.

Match the command word to the expectation and some hints and tips that you could use.

How many command words do you understand in detail?

<u>B</u>ox the command word(s)

<u>U</u>nderline the key words

<u>What are key words?</u>
Key words are the words in the question that narrow down your response or make it more specific. They don't tell you what skill to use like command words do, but tell you what knowledge and facts you're going to need.

<u>What do I need to do?</u>
Beforehand, make sure you've learnt the facts!
Know what you have to include in the question
Know how many marks it's worth
Try to use a strategy to help you answer the question

<u>U</u>nderline the key words

20   In 2015, Han was paid £1350 per month.

In 2016, he

had a 2% increase in his monthly pay

worked 37.5 hours per week

worked for 47 weeks.

Work out Han's <u>average</u> pay **per hour** for <u>2016</u>

[5 marks]

| 0 | 2 |

You need to refer to **Source A** and **Source B** for this question.

The ways the boys spend their time playing as young children is different.

Use details from **both** sources to write a summary of the different activities the boy in Source A enjoys and the boy in Source B enjoyed when he was young.

[8 marks]

<u>G</u>lance back at the question as you <u>g</u>o

<u>What do I need to do?</u>

Reflect on your progress after you've answered the question or- even better- as you go.

Have you done the right skill for the BOXED word? Have you referenced the UNDERLINED key words in your answer?

Have you done enough for the skill involved?
It's hard to answer the common question 'how much do I need to write?' but you will know that if you've written only a paragraph for an EVALUATE question, there's something missing.

Glance back at the question as you go

Question 04

Describe two problems faced by Kaiser Wilhelm II's governments in ruling Germany up to 1914.

[4 marks]

One of the problems was the Reichstag (Kaiser Wilhelm II's Government) was the fact that they were left wing. This was a problem as the Kaiser and Chancellor were both right wing meaning they wanted capitalism and the Reichstag wanted equality. Kaiser Wilhelm's desire was "Weltpolitik" meaning he wanted to be a major player in World affairs; this would be a problem for the left wing Reichstag as they would be against this. Having conflict inside a monarchy would highly affect the country as they may become weak and vulnerable.

Another problem faced by the Kaiser and his Government was Trade unions. These were a problem as by 1914 membership had reached 3.3 million. Trade unions were workers who went on strike/ raised the Governments awareness of their upset about wages, working conditions or working hours. This would have caused a problem for the Kaiser as at the time he was aiming for rearmament, meaning without enough workers he could not build enough battle ships/ weaponry to remain a strong monarchy.

<u>S</u>cribble and <u>S</u>implify

OK, you've done all this, but the questions has just got too many words and you just can't get your head around what it's asking you to do.

What now? Panic? Close the exam paper? Give up? Try to salvage as many marks as possible?

If you're **STILL** unsure of what to do or got a really complex question **SCRIBBLE** out the words you're not sure of and **SIMPLIFY**. Likely you'll still get **SOME** marks.

See example on next slide- courtesy of Mr Woodfin 😊

Don't panic, scribble and simplify…

~~With reference to your methods, results and conclusions~~, suggest how one of your geographical enquiries could be improved.

(9 marks)
(3 SPAG)
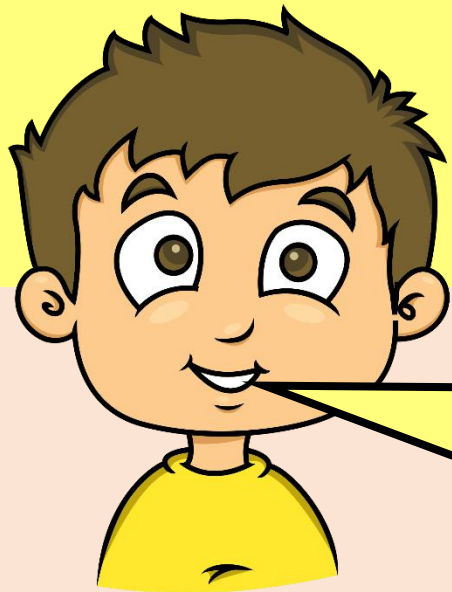
There are easy marks available here, I just need to **simplify** the question!

KEEP CALM AND SIMPLIFY

KeepCalmAndPosters.com

Have a go at these examples

BUGS the question

Box the command word(s)

Underline the key words

Glance back at the question as you go

Scribble and simplify

BUG your exam questions.

BOX the COMMAND words.
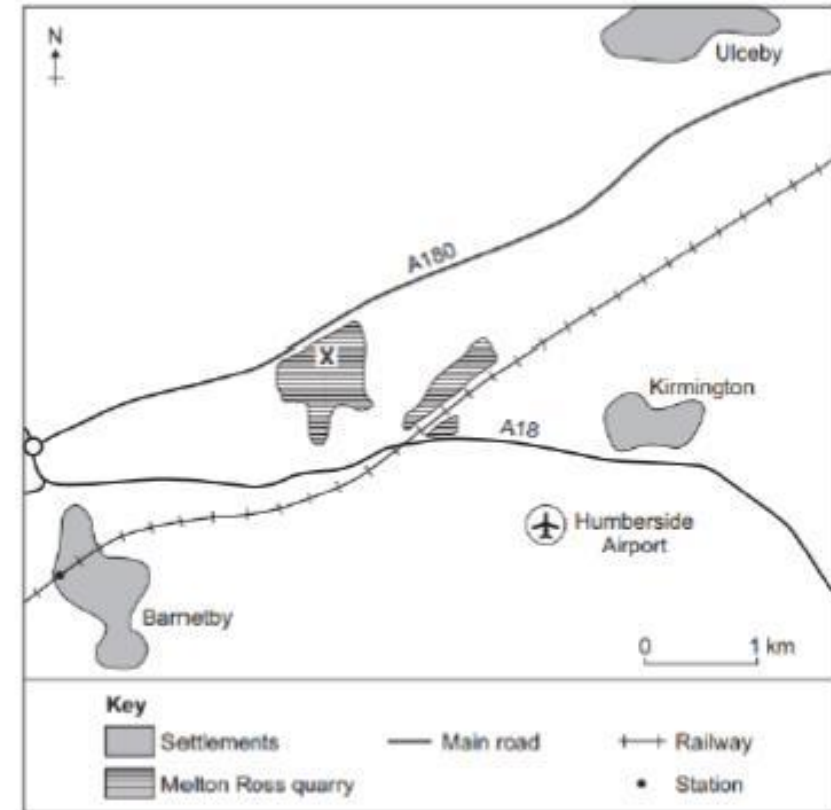
What is the question asking you to do?

U

G

S

Is this a higher level skill?

---

2 (d)   Study **Figure 6**, a sketch map showing the location of Melton Ross quarry.

Figure 6

N

Ulceby

A180

X

Kirmington

A18

Humberside Airport

Barnetby

0   1 km

Key

☐ Settlements   — Main road   +—+ Railway

▤ Melton Ross quarry   • Station

2 (d) (i)   Complete the sentences below to describe the location of Melton Ross quarry.

[3 marks]

Melton Ross quarry is two km .... of Kirmington.

Barnetby station is .... km south west of location X at the quarry.

The quarry is north of the main road ....

BUG your exam questions.

BOX the **COMMAND** words.
What is the question asking you to do?

UNDERLINE the **KEY** words.
What do you have to include?
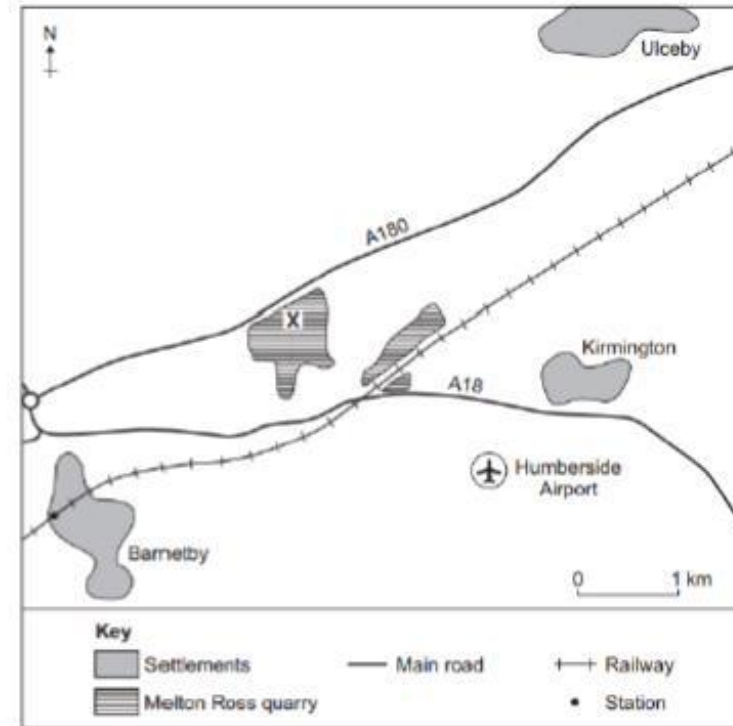How many marks are available?

G

What do you NOT need to include?

S

Have you got a strategy for answering a question like this?

2 (d)   Study **Figure 6**, a sketch map showing the location of Melton Ross quarry.

Figure 6

N

Ulceby

A180

Kirmington

A18

Humberside Airport

Barnetby

0   1 km

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BUG your exam questions.

BOX the **COMMAND** words.
What is the question asking you to do?

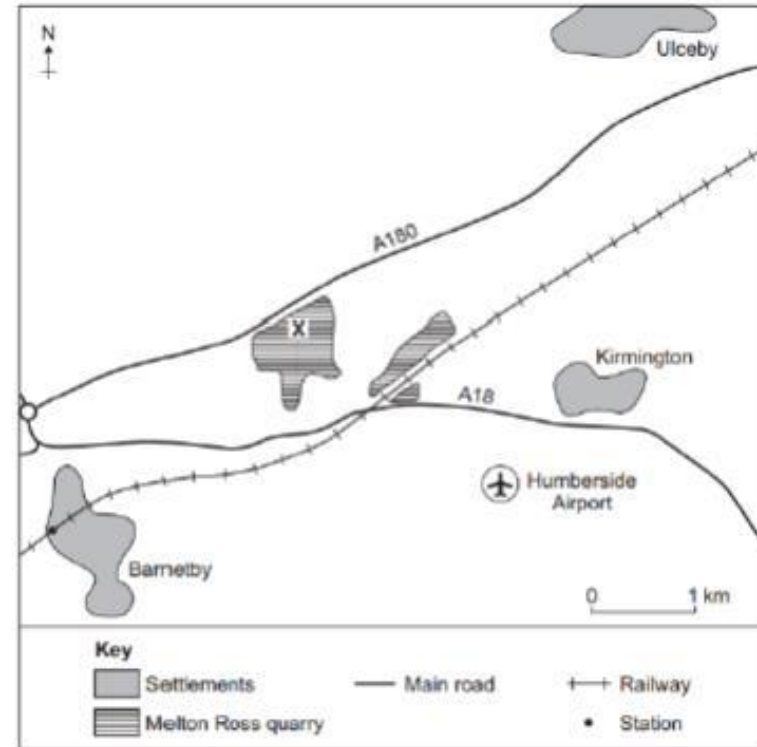**UNDERLINE** the **KEY** words.
What do you have to include?
How many marks are available?

Answer the questions

GO BACK and **check** you have done the boxed word and included the underlined words in your answer.

2 (d) Study **Figure 6**, a sketch map showing the location of Melton Ross quarry.

Figure 6

Key
Settlements — Main road +— Railway
Melton Ross quarry • Station

2 (d) (i) Complete the sentences below to describe the location of Melton Ross quarry.
[3 marks]

Melton Ross quarry is two km ____west____ of Kirmington.

Barnetby station is ____3____ km south west of location X at the quarry.

The quarry is north of the main road ____A18____ .

BUG your exam questions.

BOX the COMMAND words.
What is the question asking you to do?

UNDERLINE the KEY words.
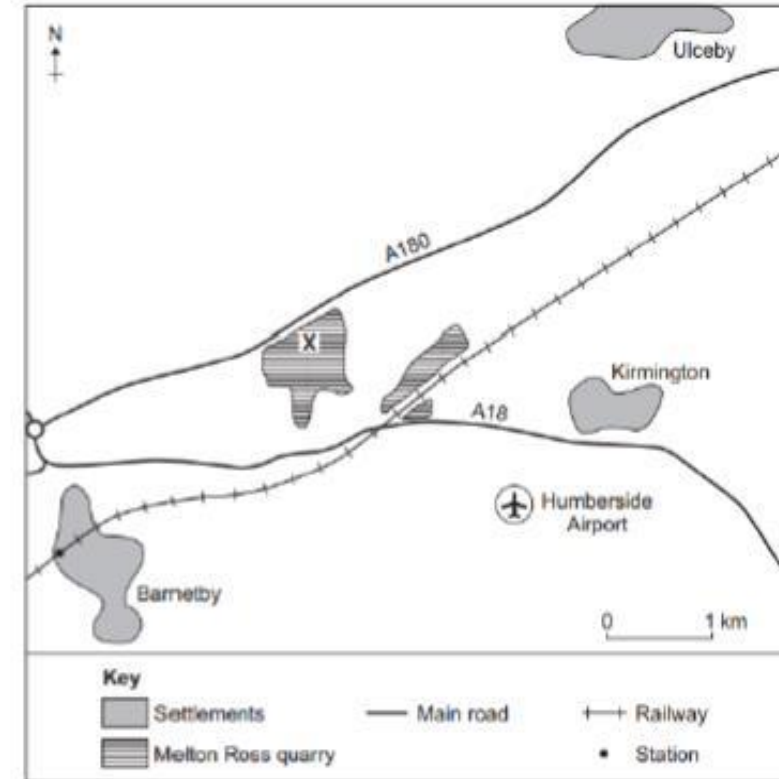What do you have to include?
How many marks are available?

Answer the questions

GO BACK and **check** you have done the boxed word and included the underlined words in your answer.

2 (d)   Study **Figure 6**, a sketch map showing the location of Melton Ross quarry.

Figure 6

Key

Settlements	— Main road
Melton Ross quarry	• Station

+—+ Railway

2 (d) (i)   Complete the sentences below to describe the location of Melton Ross quarry.
[3 marks]

Melton Ross quarry is two km ......_west_...... of Kirmington.

Barnetby station is ...._3_.... km south west of location X at the quarry.

The quarry is north of the main road ......_A18_......

S   STILL unsure of what to do? Or got a complicated question? **SCRIBBLE** out the words you're not sure of. Likely you'll still get **SOME** marks.

BUG your exam questions.

WHAT WOULD YOU BUG ON HERE?

BOX the **COMMAND** words.
What is the question asking you to do?

UNDERLINE the **KEY** words.
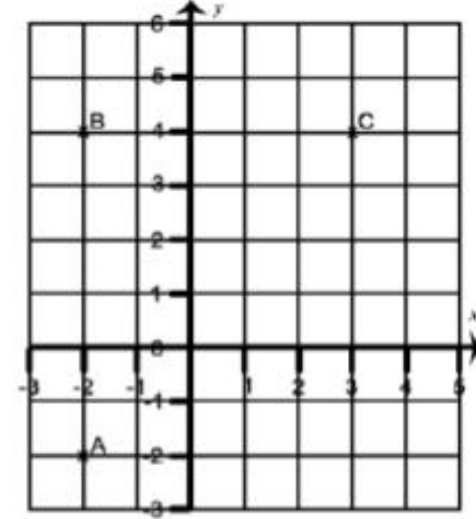What do you have to include?
How many marks are available?

Answer the question

GO BACK and check

STILL unsure of what to do? Or got a complicated question? **SCRIBBLE** out the words you're not sure of. Likely you'll still get **SOME** marks.

Example maths questions:

3.

(a) Write down the coordinates of the points A, B and C.

A (........ , ...) B (........ , ...) C (........ , ...)
(3 marks)

(b) Write down the coordinates of the point D, which makes a rectangle with A, B and C.

D (........ , ...)   (2 marks)

4.   (a) Circle the fractions in the list which are equivalent to $\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{33}{44}$ $\frac{4}{7}$ $\frac{9}{12}$ $\frac{13}{14}$ $\frac{30}{40}$ $\frac{4}{5}$ $\frac{21}{28}$

(2 marks)

BUG your exam questions.

WHAT WOULD YOU BUG ON HERE?

BOX the **COMMAND** words.
What is the question asking you to do?

UNDERLINE the **KEY** words.
What do you have to include?
How many marks are available?

Answer the question

GO BACK and **check**

STILL unsure of what to do? Or got a complicated question? **SCRIBBLE** out the words you're not sure of. Likely you'll still get **SOME** marks.

Example RE questions:

Question 2 Religion, Sport and Leisure

Look at the photographs. They show football fans supporting their teams.

| 0 | 6 | Explain why some people say sport has become a religion. |

[5 marks]

| 0 | 7 | 'Natural ability is a gift from God.' |

What do you think? Explain your opinion.

[3 marks]

| 0 | 8 | Give **one** benefit of leisure time. |

[1 mark]

BUG your exam questions.

WHAT WOULD YOU BUG ON HERE?

BOX the **COMMAND** words.
What is the question asking you to do?

UNDERLINE the **KEY** words.
What do you have to include?
How many marks are available?

Answer the question

GO BACK and **check**

STILL unsure of what to do? Or got a complicated question? **SCRIBBLE** out the words you're not sure of. Likely you'll still get **SOME** marks.

Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from **line 19 to the end**.

A student said, 'This part of the story, set in the hat shop, shows that the red-haired girl has many advantages in life, and I think Rosabel is right to be angry.'

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you could:

- consider your own impressions of the red-haired girl
- evaluate how the writer conveys Rosabel's reactions to the red-haired girl
- support your response with references to the text.

[20 marks]

Over to you...

Using practice exam papers or revision guides, write out an exam question, making sure that you BUGS it.

Have a go at answering the question.

Use highlighters to colour code your answer against the command word(s) and the key word(s).

Now reflect
How many marks is the question worth?
What type of skill is involved in the command word?
Have I got evidence of both colours?

BUGS the question

Box the command words
Underline the key words
Glance back at the question
Scribble and Simplify
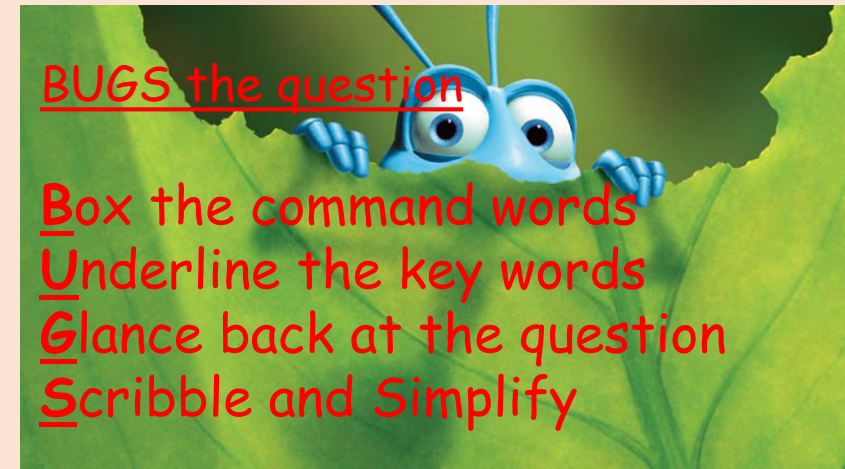
Over to you...

You are an examiner writing an exam paper for your particular subject area. Choose a subject you have studied and write one or two questions that could be included on the exam paper.

You need to consider:
What command word are you going to use?
How many marks is the question worth?
What are the key words that narrows down the focus for the student?

Write a short 'mark scheme'- a few bullet points will do- of what you'd expect to see in an answer.
Get your partner to answer your questions.
Have they answered it appropriately according to you command and key words?

BUGS the question

Box the command words
Underline the key words
Glance back at the question
Scribble and Simplify