

A photograph of a student's desk. On the left, there are several sheets of paper with handwritten notes. In the center, a white text box is overlaid. To the right, a person's hand is visible, wearing a grey and white patterned sweater, holding a pen. A smartphone is lying on the desk in the bottom right corner. The background is dark.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING

practice papers

the one thing all top students agree on



Why bother?

- Contrary to common belief, it is not enough just to read over notes or make flashcards or revision notes.
- One of the most **underrated and powerful** strategies when revising is to do practice papers ***and to do lots of them.***
- At the end of the day, you will be sitting a paper for your exam so that is what all this revision is for!

Some
context:

GCSEs vs
your/their
Driving
Test

Most of my GCSE students will eventually spend **up to 30hrs (and £1200)** on practicing for their driving test which lasts just **40mins**.

Most them will also only spend about **23hrs** writing exam answers across Y10-11 for 3 3 exam papers that will last **6hrs 5mins**.

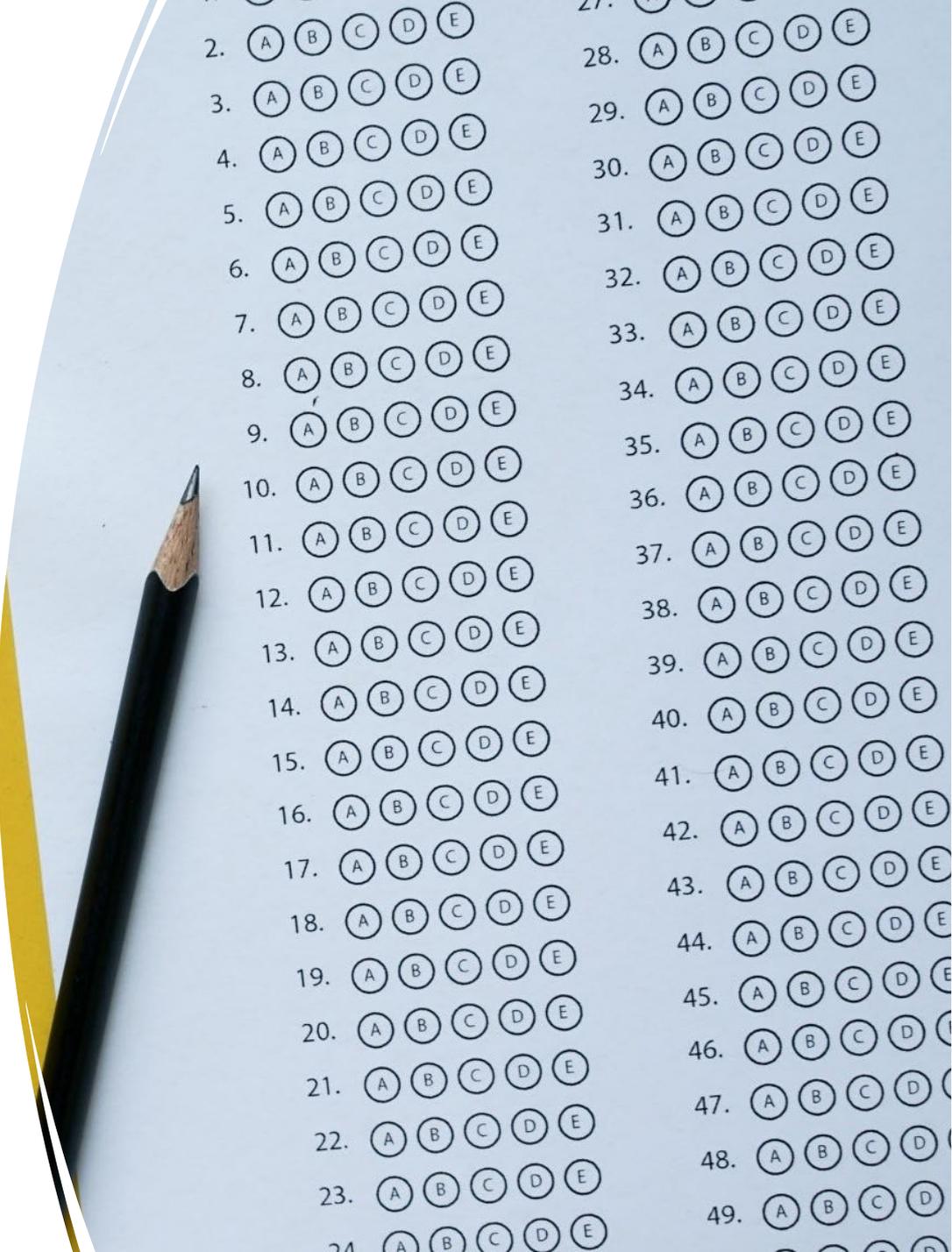
In short 30hrs driving practice for a 40min test and yet only 23hrs writing answers for 6hrs of test(s).

How will they help?

1. Practice papers help you learn how to apply knowledge to questions.
 2. Practice papers teach you how to phrase your answers in a concise and effective way.
 3. They are also good for helping you practice your timings for the real exam
- It is 50% about knowing *stuff* and 50% about applying it ... knowing it is not enough i.e. flash cards, notes and reading is not enough!

Where do I find them?

- Exam board websites
- Google Classrooms
- **Make sure they are for your specification and exam board**
- Be weary of find them on random websites and please parents, don't go and buy every revision guide known to man to get hold of them...



1) READ THEM!

- Get used to...
- i) the layout
- ii). the language
- iii). the styles of question
- iv). the marks available



2) PLAN THEM

- Write down what you might include in that answer – even if it's just a list!
- Underline the key words in the question – what does the question REALLY want you to do?
- Verbally plan it by yourself (or with a partner)



3)

DO A PAPER
WITH NOTES

- Answer the questions but using your revision notes/textbooks etc



4) DO A PAPER *WITHOUT ANY HELP!*

- Do them in timed conditions
- This will really test what you do and don't know AND how quickly you can recall and apply it
- Show them to your teachers – they may be able to mark them and give some additional advice ... *if you ask them nicely...*





5) READ THE MARKSCHEME

- This often gives knowledge you could have included (*but doesn't give it all*)
- It gives you a really good idea of what the examiners are looking for
- Mark your own work to see what you did well and what you need to improve on/what you missed out
- **READ THE EXAMINER REPORTS TOO!!!**
- (if you're confident with their language)



6)
*CREATE YOUR OWN
QUESTIONS*

*Look at the revision list, look at the styles
of question and make your own!*

- 1. Describe 2 features of.....*
- 2. Explain why.....*
- 3. Explain why was the most
important reason why..... happened*

HERE IS A USEFUL VIDEO FROM ELEVATE TO WATCH IF YOU HAVE TIME

- Remember your exam results is not linked to how smart you are but how smartly you prepared for them
- Please watch the video from Elevate for a summary on what we discussed above.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Na8m4GPqA30>