Exam questions use a standard set of **key words** that tell you how to answer the question.

### TIP
Examiners often award method marks (M) – for your workings – and accuracy marks (A) – for the right answer. You can still get M marks with a wrong answer, so always show your workings.

### TIP
A question may ask you to decide how many digits to give in the answer. **Appropriate degree of accuracy**

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- If all numbers are given to two, or more, decimal places then quote your answer to three significant figures.
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### As a / in terms of / in the form

A question may tell you how to write your answer.

- Work out $\frac{2}{4} \times \frac{3}{5}$ Write your answer as a mixed number in its simplest form. [3]

### TIP
When a question has a Yes/No answer, or gives the answer, and has more than one mark for it, then you must show workings to get full marks.

### TIP
You don’t have to remember all the formulae you might need in an exam. Some formulae will be provided in the questions. You should check which formulae will be provided.

### Drawn / Not drawn accurately

A question may provide a diagram which is labelled as **drawn accurately**, in which case you can measure angles and distances using a protractor and ruler, or as **not drawn accurately**, in which case a calculation will be required.

Work out angle $\angle BCD$.

- 3x – 30° not drawn accurately
- 2x + 35°

Here the examiner is looking for you to use a mixture of geometry and algebra to find $x = 33°$ and hence angle $\angle BCD = 69°$; you should not use a protractor to measure the angle.

### Use

A question may tell you which method to use to solve a problem.

(a) On the same axes draw graphs of $y = 3x + 1$ and $y = 2 - 5x$ [3]

(b) Use your graph to find an approximate solution to the simultaneous equations $y = 3x - 1$ and $y = 2 - 5x$. [3]

Here the examiner expects you to read off the graph in part (a) the intersection of the two lines, (0.4, 0.1); you should not use algebra to solve the simultaneous equations.

### TIP
In a money question, two formulae will be provided. If a question asks you to draw a diagram or plot a graph then it must be done accurately, for example, by calculating points and joining them with a smooth curve. If a question asks for a sketch then it does not have to be drawn accurately but it must show all relevant information.

### Circle / Tick

Each AQA paper always starts with four multi-choice questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many millimetres are there in 1.7 centimetres?</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle your answer.</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here the examiner is only looking to see a ring drawn around the correct answer, 17; you don’t need to show any workings. However **beware** that all answers will be plausible so you should think carefully before choosing one.

### TIP
Find out more about our AQA GCSE resources at [www.oxfordsecondary.co.uk/maths](http://www.oxfordsecondary.co.uk/maths)

### Circle / Tick

Examiners often award method marks (M) – for your workings – and accuracy marks (A) – for the right answer. You can still get M marks with a wrong answer, so always show your workings.

### TIP
You must show your workings / Give a reason

Questions often ask you to justify a statement or a previous answer.

- A coat costs £56.80. In a sale all prices are reduced by 20%. What is the new price of the coat? You must show your workings. [3]

Here the examiner is looking for the answer, £45.44, and the calculation:

- 20% of £56.80 = 0.2 × 56.8 = 11.36
- New price = 56.80 – 11.36 = £45.44

### TIP
You must show your workings / Give a reason

A question may tell you to justify a statement or a previous answer.

- Is the expression $1 - 2x^2 + 1$ always positive? You must give a reason. [3]

Here it is not enough to just say ‘Yes’; the examiner is looking to see you explain that any number, here $1 - 2x^2$, squared is always non-negative and adding one makes the expression positive.

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### TIP
When a question has a Yes/No answer, or gives the answer, and has more than one mark for it, then you must show workings to get full marks.

### TIP
In a money question, two decimal places is usually appropriate – to the nearest penny.

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