Success: factors affecting exam performance

1. Subject knowledge

Before you go into the exam you should feel confident that you have a good understanding of the subject.

2. Your exam history

People who can think positively about exams tend to do better. However, it is easier to think positively if you have had exam success in the past.

3. Exam preparation

Systematically review the subject using a variety of methods. E.g. note taking, reading, summarising, memorising

4. Exam practice

Practicing answering questions, while you revise, is a great way to test yourself and improve your understanding.

5. Writing skills (question answering skills)

Ask yourself - what does the examiner want? With essay writing or with technical exams (e.g. maths) practice writing the answers as quickly and as clearly as you can and make sure you show the examiner what you know. If it is an essay, you want to think about style, vocabulary, structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation.

6. Use of time

Focus your revision so that you use your time well. Start revising as early as you can. Additionally, when doing exam practice you can improve your ability to answer the questions in the time given.

7. Attitude and approach

Think positively about exams. Worrying takes a lot of energy but does not help you improve.

Looking at the list, write down the four elements you are most concerned about or that you believe to be the biggest barrier to your success.