

Exam Strategy & Timing

First thing to do:

Jump straight to the Document Based **Question 2F**. It's obligatory, but your brain needs time to **ruminate** over it. You'll be coming back to it far stronger later on!

Second thing to do:

Scan the essay titles and try and narrow them down quickly to the topics that you think you will do. Again, let those 2 or 3 titles **ruminate**. As you progress through Qs A & B, you should jot down any quick ideas on rough work.

What's the best way to approach the exam? With CONSISTENCY. Do it the same way every time to reduce uncertainty

Remember: The exam is **2hrs 30mins** (150 mins) allowing time to pre-read and check means you have approx. **140 mins** of answering time.

Short Questions: 50 Marks

DBQ: 150 Marks

Essays: 2 x 100 Marks

The **GOLDEN RULE** for all exams is: You don't decide 'how much' you should write, you decide '**HOW LONG**' you should write for. That **maximizes** your marks.

It is **ALWAYS** easier to get the first half of the marks than the second half of the marks. Therefore... **You're better off stopping an answer relatively abruptly & starting another question than you would be trying to perfectly polish off the question you're working on.**

The BIGGEST mistake I've seen re-appear over and over in the Mock and June exams is for students to OVERWRITE their Short Questions or Q 2(f) and waste time that's badly needed for their essays!

As a 'data handling' or 'numeracy' exercise, you should be able to work out the following:

400 marks in 140 mins = 2.8 marks per min
(i.e. ground it up to 3 marks per min)

If you find you complete one type of question faster than the others, you can adapt the figures that follow to your personal strengths and weaknesses...

**Short Questions: (50 marks): $50/2.8$
= 17-18 mins**

**Data-Based Question: (150 marks): $150/2.8$
= 50-55 mins**

**Essays: (2 x 100 marks): $200/2.8 = 72$ mins
(≈ 36 mins each)**

If you are really struggling with time management and get flustered in the exam, then you should consider plotting out your exams, not in terms of minutes, but in terms of what precise time you should move on to the next questions. Like this...

9:30 – Scan the exam (Q2F and Essays as priorities)

9:35 – Start Short Questions (remembering you answer 10 out of 12 options)

9:53 – Start Data-Based Questions (answering all questions)

10:45 – Start Essay #1

11:20 – Start Essay #2

11:55 – Review paper (complete additional Short Questions, check Thesis Statements, add in additional Data Points and sources, add a concluding sentence to questions that were ended abruptly.

12:00 – go on holidays, it's the last day of the exams, all your friends are already in Ibiza/Inter-railing/getting a part time job so that they can afford college accommodation...

Remember...

Every sample 'Data Based Question' you have ever done could be used in the June exam as a source of data. Also remember, that there's a **premium for critically analysed data**. So, at the end, go back and add in a closing line to each paragraph that critiques the sources of your data...