

EXPERT GUIDANCE TO GIVE
YOU THE WINNING HAND
TO ACE THE EXAMS

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JOE'S BOOKS CAN BE VIEWED ON:
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Mock Examination Time.....

Advice for Your Mock Exams

With your lack of experience in exam papers at this level, it is important to contemplate the following before sitting your mocks:

- ♣ Attend school for every single paper.
- ♣ Create a timing plan for each individual question and stick to it.
- ♣ Be realistic about your results as it is relatively early in the year.
- ♣ Eat well and get some exercise to give you plenty of energy for the exam hall and studying in the evening.
- ♣ Don't forget to have a look over the topics you covered in fifth year as they are now back on the table also.
- ♣ Have an idea what order you plan on doing the questions in – Start with a question you like or with something that is familiar to you.
- ♣ Keep the main focus of your study on the final goal, which is the Leaving Certificate. It is a marathon, not a sprint and the students that pace themselves well will do better.
- ♣ In preparation for your mocks, revise some sections of the course well instead of attempting to cover the whole course badly.
- ♣ It is OK to make errors in the mocks as you will have time later to learn best practice and use it. Making mistakes and forgetting things are all part of the mock process, so be sure not to be too hard on yourself.
- ♣ You don't have to be talented to do well in the mocks. We now know that hard work and studying smarter

#1 Feb 2018

(See Chapter One and Two) is more important. Practice and repetition are key attributes to success for any student no matter how talented they are. It is true that hard work can beat talent if talent doesn't work hard enough.

♣ 'Control the Controllable's'. As you head into the mocks; get your energy levels up, have all your materials in place for each subject and ensure the house is stocked with good foods - these are the things you can control. You can also control how much study you do and how you react to setbacks; so much of the preparation is in your hands. As with any exam paper, you have no control over what is asked, so try not to worry about what 'might' come up.

Advantages of Doing the Mock Exams

Many students feel that the mock exams are an inconvenience seeing them as two weeks study lost. Inevitably there are pros and cons to them, but for sure they will focus the mind for the months ahead. If during the mocks you find yourself demotivated, tired, anxious or disinterested, I can assure you that when leaving cert day comes, you will have greatly benefited from the experience. Here are some heartening reasons to persevere with the mocks:

- ♣ The mocks will serve as a walk-up call.
- ♣ The mocks will be an experience you will learn a great deal from.
- ♣ The mocks will motivate you to commence revision now.
- ♣ The mocks will help you identify topics you need to study.
- ♣ The mocks will test if your revision strategies are working.
- ♣ The mocks will familiarise you with the pressure of exams.
- ♣ The mocks will show you the areas you have good knowledge in.
- ♣ The mocks will gauge your performance against the clock.
- ♣ The mocks will allow you to practice exam techniques learned.
- ♣ The mocks will boost your confidence of success later.
- ♣ The mocks will show your teacher the areas you need help in.
- ♣ The mocks will get you familiar with the timing of a full paper.
- ♣ The mocks will give you an insight into the marking schemes.
- ♣ The mocks will increase your awareness of course content.
- ♣ The mocks will serve as an indicator to the quality of your study.

Mocks Will Guide Level Choice

Another big advantage of having sat through the mocks is it will help you decide what paper level you should choose for your Leaving Cert. Deciding levels is a tricky issue for students every year and involves many considerations. I would advise you to think about and discuss these factors in detail with your parents and teachers before attempting to change levels in any subject. Along with mock performance, here are some other considerations when making decisions regarding levels:

- ♣ Your teacher's opinion.
- ♣ Your attendance thus far.
- ♣ Your 'potential' points change.
- ♣ Your own gut feeling about the subject.
- ♣ How much you enjoy studying the subject.
- ♣ How much of the course you have done thus far.
- ♣ Results in previous Christmas and Summer tests.
- ♣ Results in class tests since the beginning of fifth year.
- ♣ The amount of effort you are putting into the subject balanced against the other subjects.
- ♣ Minimum course requirements for college (e.g., do you I need a H7 in Maths to be accepted on a course).

...Extract from 'Chapter 3: The Mocks' of Joe McCormack's book "How to ACE the Leaving Certificate" for ALL subjects.

For more Information on Joe's work, see his website www.acesolutionbooks.com or follow him on Facebook for useful links and Secondary School resources <https://www.facebook.com/joe.mccormack.3591>.

