

Exams with Long Answers

Information for students about our question paper style

AQA exams with separate question papers and answer books are now using a new:

- **simplified, two-digit question numbering system**
- **style of answer book with spaces for you to write the two-digit question numbers.**

Exams where you write answers in a combined question answer book won't change.

Which units will use the new question numbering system and new answer book?

Your teacher will advise you whether the question papers for the exams you are taking will work with the new question numbering system and new answer book. You can also check the *Students and Parents* area of aqa.org.uk



What will the new question papers look like?

Your teacher will show you. Most papers can be downloaded from aqa.org.uk/past_papers – simply select the subject and paper you need.

What will the new question numbering system look like?

Questions start at 01 and run consecutively throughout the question paper. The table below shows how the new question numbering system will work.

Traditional numbering system	New long answer numbering system
Question / Topic / Theme 1	Question / Topic / Theme 1
1(a)	01
1(b)	02
Question / Topic / Theme 2	Question / Topic / Theme 2
2(a)	03
2(b)	04
2(c)(i)	05
2(c)(ii)	06
Question / Topic / Theme 3	Question / Topic / Theme 3
3(a)	07
3(b)	08
3(c)(i)	09
3(c)(ii)	10
3(c)(iii)	11
3(d)	12
etc	etc

What will the new AQA answer book look like?

It is very similar to answer books you've probably used before (eg in your mock exams), but it has spaces for you to write the two-digit question numbers. You can see the new style answer book at aqa.org.uk/sample-booklet



How do I use the new AQA answer book?

Apart from using the two-digit question numbers, the only difference for you is that we want you to leave **two** lines between each of your answers. If you want to add more material to an answer **don't** try to squeeze it into these two lines, or extend it into the margin of the answer book, or attach additional sheets to your answer book. You should:

- go to the end of the last response you have written in the answer book
- leave at least two lines beneath your last answer
- write again the number of the question you want to continue to answer using the white boxes next to the start of each new response
- write the additional material.

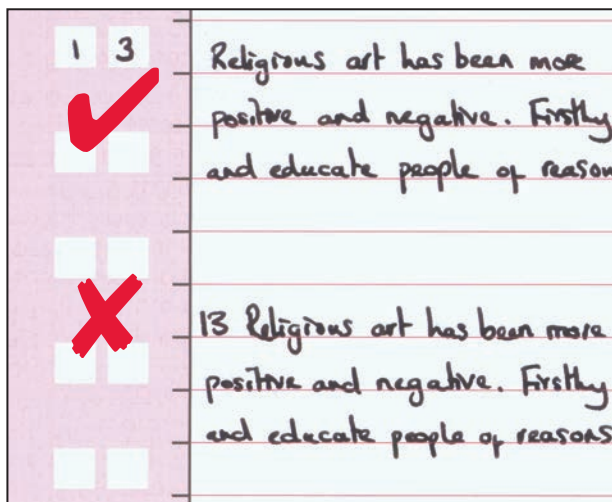
When writing the two-digit question number, take care to:

- copy the number exactly as shown in the boxes on the exam paper eg

0	1
---	---

0	2
---	---

. You should **not** rewrite the number of the section, topic or theme you are addressing
- write the number of the question in the white boxes **not** in the body of your answer, as shown below.

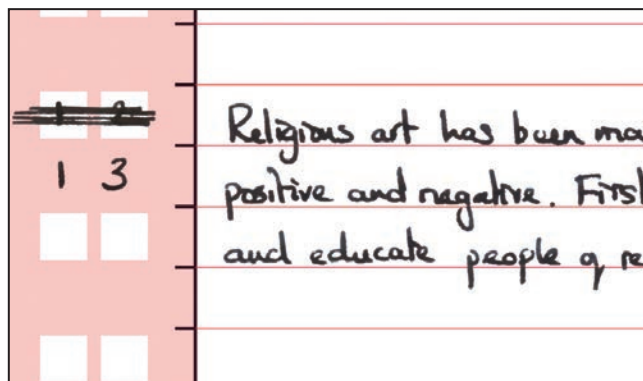


What if I run out of space in my answer book?

You are given **one** answer book at the start of the exam. If you run out of space, ask the Invigilator for a four-page *Supplementary* answer book. Complete all of the information required on the front of your four-page *Supplementary* answer book. You won't be given additional single sheets of paper.

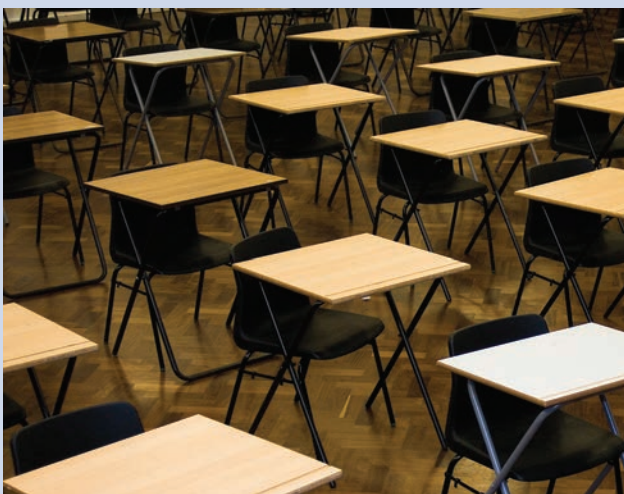
What if I make a mistake with this new question numbering system or new answer book?

The numbering system and answer books have been designed to be easy to use. Please try your best to follow the guidance given here and on the front of the question papers and answer books. If you make a mistake writing the number of the question you are answering, fill in the boxes and write the question number in the space immediately below the boxes, as shown here:



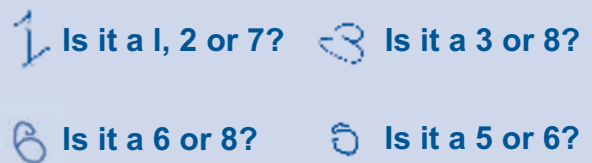
Good exam practice

- 1. Prepare thoroughly for the exam.** This applies not only to the material for study but also to any materials to be used during the exam. Make sure you have revised all material thoroughly and that you know how many questions you need to answer. You must write in black ink or black ball point pen on the paper; blue pens are not acceptable.
- 2. Read carefully the rubrics on the front cover and at the start of each new section of the question paper.**
Invigilators will remind you, at the start of each exam, how many questions must be answered, especially if there are optional questions on a paper. Read each page of the question paper carefully. You will penalise yourself if you fail to answer compulsory questions that are printed on the last page.
- 3. Take time to consider each question** and where there are optional questions, read through each one before choosing which to answer.
- 4. Structure answers** by making an answer plan, where appropriate.
- 5. Look at the number of marks available for each question and write answers of an appropriate length.** You won't get any marks for writing material that's not relevant to the question on the exam paper and, if your answer is too long for the number of marks available, you'll have wasted time. Also, don't copy each question into your answer book – this isn't necessary, even when separate answer books are used.
- 6. Look back at the question asked and check you have answered it directly.** You can write a good answer but fail to gain marks because you haven't answered the question on the exam paper.



- 7. Ensure that your handwriting is legible.** Although you won't lose marks for poor handwriting, you might penalise yourself if examiners can't read what is written. Write the two-digit question number carefully and exactly as it is shown on the question paper, using the white boxes next to the start of each answer. The following examples show some of the difficulties examiners experience trying to decipher handwriting that isn't clear.

Lack of clarity



Clarity for examiners

Students should write 1 without any 'tops' and 'tails', eg 1 **not** 1 or 1, and write 7 without a cross, eg 7 **not** 7.

1 0	✓
1 1	✓
1 1	✗
1 3	✓
1 3	✗
1 5	✗
1 5	✓
1 6	✓
1 7	✓
1 7	✗