

## Five rules for exam technique

1. Read the question twice

'Read once... then read it again to make sure you know what it says'

2. Underline any **Command words** and keywords in the information you see in the question, that's what you need to answer

Membranes contain a variety of proteins. Some of these proteins are combined with carbohydrates to form glycoproteins.

Describe the functions of glycoproteins in the cell surface membrane.

Here are some of the common command words. Try to match up the command word with the appropriate definition:

<u>Command word</u>	<u>What to do</u>
<b>Give/name/state</b>	Work out the solution to a mathematical problem
<b>Describe</b>	Give a brief one/two-word answer/short sentence
<b>Explain</b>	Write out the main points in a topic
<b>Outline</b>	Use your scientific knowledge to work out what the answer might be
<b>Suggest</b>	Write about the advantages and disadvantages of something
<b>Discuss</b>	Give reasons or causes for something
<b>Calculate</b>	Write about what somethings like in detail

3. Look at the number of marks available - that tells you how much information you need to include.

- A question worth 2 marks means the examiner wants a short straight forward answer involving two key things.

- A question worth 6 marks will be expected to have a much longer answer and it will be marked using levels (based on quality). For the highest level you need to give answers, explain them and give examples to back it up.

4. For longer questions take time to think and plan your answers (flow charts, key words)

If appropriate look over and think about whatever key words or data you have before trying to answer

Writing notes pointers - Research, reading and note making are essential study skills for a level Biology. Use Cornell notes to help organise, summarise and plan your learning.