

Edexcel A2 Physics

Edexcel GCE Student Conference 2006

Surviving the Synoptic Paper

- Passage Analysis
- Synthesis Question
- Synoptic Questions

Passage Analysis

- About half the marks depend on a basic understanding of the Specification.
- Remainder are mainly gained by looking back to a sentence or two in the passage.
- A small amount of data analysis may be involved
So.....

The trick is to

- X *not* read the passage again and again until you understand it.
- ✓ glance *quickly* through the passage.
- ✓ read *all* the questions *carefully*.
- ✓ answer some of the questions.

Synthesis Question

Analogies in Physics

- 'good physics'
- fairly mathematical
- analytical skills required

Accelerators

- mainly 'knowledge'
- need to revise thoroughly

Hints:

- ✓ the parts can be answered in any order, or parts left out.
- ✓ being stuck on one part does not mean that you cannot do other parts.
- ✓ sketches, graphs and diagrams are much better than lengthy 'essays'.

Synoptic Questions

- two compulsory questions.
- generally cover areas of the Specification not dealt with in the passage analysis.

Hints:

- ✓ read quickly through the whole of each question.
- ✓ could start the examination with one which appears to be 'friendly'.
- ✓ difficulty of jumping from one area of the Specification to another - practice this.