MARK YOURSELF LIKE AN EXAMINER

Five rules from the front of the mark scheme

Edexcel mark schemes open with the same short set of marking rules. Once you know them, the scheme is much easier to read.

1

Crossing out is not deleting

Crossed-out work is still marked, unless you have written something to replace it.

2

Keep one attempt, cross out the rest

If you leave more than one attempt and cross none out, the examiner marks the most complete one, which is not always the best one.

3

Write the formula, then use it

On the Pure papers, quote a formula before you use it. A correct formula with an attempt to use it earns the method mark even with small slips in the numbers. Without the formula written down, one mistake can cost that mark.

4

Exact means no rounding

On the Pure papers, when an exact answer is asked for, a rounded decimal will normally lose marks.

5

With g = 9.8, give 2 or 3 significant figures

In Mechanics, answers that use g = 9.8 should be given to 2 or 3 significant figures, and using 9.81 is penalised once per question.

Taken from the marking instructions printed at the front of Edexcel's A-level Maths mark schemes.
Checked against the mark schemes for June 2024 Paper 1 and June 2023 Paper 3.

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✓ **Spot the trap, keep the mark.**

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