

## 5 Top Tips to Smash 4–5 Mark GCSE Foundation Maths Questions

*By Tilly's Tutoring*

Struggling with longer maths questions? Good news – you don't need to be "good at maths" to score well on 4–5 mark questions. You just need the **right mindset and a clear plan**. Try these top tips

### 1. Stop. Look. What do you SEE?

Before you do anything, pause and really look at the question.

- Is there a **diagram**?
- A **table, graph, or list of information**?
- Words like *total, difference, mean, percentage*?

Maths questions always give clues – your job is to spot them.

### 2. Highlight the Key Information

You don't need all the words.

- Highlight **numbers**
- Circle **units** (cm, kg, £, minutes)
- Underline **what the question is asking**

This helps stop silly mistakes and keeps your brain focused.

### 3. Look for What You ALREADY Know

Ask yourself: *Have I seen something like this before?*

- See a **triangle**?

- If it's a **right-angled triangle** → think **Pythagoras or Trigonometry**
- See **percentages**?
  - Think **fractions, decimals, or multipliers**
- See **averages**?
  - Mean, median, mode, range – which one fits?

Maths is about recognising patterns, not guessing.

#### 4. Show Every Step – Marks Add Up

Even if you're unsure of the final answer:

- Write down the **formula**
- Substitute numbers
- Show working clearly

You can still get **most of the marks**, even if the answer isn't perfect.

#### 5. Check: Does My Answer Make Sense?

Quick final check:

- Is the answer **too big or too small**?
- Are the **units correct**?
- Does it fit the question?

A 10-second check can save easy marks.

#### Remember

You don't need to be confident to start – **confidence comes after practice**.

At **Tilly's Mindset Maths**, we believe:

*Mistakes mean learning. Effort means progress.*

**Ready to take the next step?**

Sign up for our **FREE Masterclass** or subscribe to our **weekly online group maths sessions**.