SAQ Advice

- The actual spread of marks candidates achieve (i.e., weak vs. strong candidates) in this part of the exam is very narrow (see terrible assessment tool).
- The following are my thoughts and examiner thoughts I have received on how to excel.

General Advice

- The structure required in your answer is less rigid than the primary SAQs. Knowledge is power - study with breadth and depth.
- SAQs likely won’t repeat as in the primary.
- Use the reading time to read and re-read the questions to allow your subconscious to prepare structures and answers.
- Consider underlining the key words in each question when you come to answer it - this serves as a final check to keep you on track.
- Write clearly.
- Practise writing full exams under exam conditions - to build your hand strength/endurance and your concentration.
- Less is more. I feel quite strongly bullets are more than adequate. Long passages of prose will only hide your knowledge.
- Decide on your preferred method and practise it: either answer each question in turn or prioritise your order of answering eg easy to difficult.
- AT ALL COSTS:
  - attempt to answer each question
  - allocate an even amount of time to each question = 10mins
  - monitor the clock very closely
  - this is because it is easier to pick up easy marks, than to excel in each question. Thus ignoring difficult questions completely is literally a waste.

Key Words

- It is vital to interpret each question correctly.
- These words should inform the structure of your answer eg tables, diagram, pictures, bullets etc:
- You should practise these structures in full 15 Q practise exams:
  - COMPARE = look for similarities & differences
  - CONTRAST = set in opposition in order to bring out differences
  - DEFINE = give the precise meaning
  - DESCRIBE = give a detailed account of
  - EVALUATE = make an appraisal of the worth of something
  - EXPLAIN = make plain, interpret, account for
  - ILLUSTRATE = make clear by concrete examples (or use a diagram)
  - JUSTIFY = show adequate grounds for decisions
  - LIST = catalogue by groups or classes with minimal explanation
  - OUTLINE = give the main features of general principles
  - RELATE = show how things are connected to each other and how they affect each other

Good luck!