SAQ Advice

- The actual spread of marks candidates achieve (ie 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!