Galashiels Academy, Prelim Examinations
Final Preparations and During the Exams
Some Suggestions

These notes are based on working with many students who have taken school examinations.
Most suggestions will seem like "common sense", but sometimes it is useful to be reminded of common sense.

**What's in the exam?**
Make sure you know the sections to be covered in the prelim. Make a note of any advice from your teachers.

**One week to go:**
By now you should have finished revising. Hopefully, you have made some kind of summary of the main points of the courses. If not you should keep doing this.
Try questions from past papers, etc. If you don't have time to write full essays, practice planning them and check you know the required facts.
You might add points to your summaries if you find some things are missing. If you are stuck on a question or not sure of anything ask your teacher.
If you are given formulae etc. make sure you are very familiar with them.

**The Day Before**
On the last day don't try to learn anything new, but go over the main points you need for the exam. Try to avoid simply reading. Try to recall what YOU need. Cover your summary notes etc. and see if you can recall the main points you require. Perhaps highlight main points.
Go over examples you have done already.
Go over any advice you have received from your teacher.
Check the length of the exam, the number of questions; the time to spend on each section, Work out the time to spend for each mark.

**During the Exam**
Being nervous is normal and can improve concentration.
A few people get too nervous. It might be useful to think of something more important than the exam to keep things in perspective, Usually, once you are started, you are too busy to be nervous.
Often it is best to do the "easiest questions" first which are easiest for you first.
Certainly don't get bogged down on a question.
You could even make a start at the most difficult questions.
Make sure you turn over the last page!
Try to leave some time to look over the paper. You might try covering your answer and slowly revealing it as you check it.