

Error Analysis

Years 7–12 | Highest-Value Study Strategy

WHAT IS ERROR ANALYSIS?

Error analysis is the deliberate process of examining your mistakes — in tests, assignments, past papers, and homework — to understand exactly why you got something wrong. It is not enough to simply correct an answer; you must diagnose the type of error and address its root cause.

WHY DOES IT WORK? THE PSYCHOLOGY

- Mistakes contain precise diagnostic information about your specific learning gaps.
- Reviewing errors activates metacognition — thinking about your own thinking — which is strongly linked to academic improvement.
- Students who regularly analyse errors improve faster than those who only review correct answers.
- Error analysis prevents you from repeating the same mistakes by building pattern awareness.

"Every mistake is a data point. Your job is not to feel bad about it — it's to decode it."

ERROR TYPE CLASSIFICATION

Error Type	What It Means
Concept Gap	You didn't understand the underlying idea or theory.
Procedural Error	You knew what to do but made a step-by-step mistake.
Careless Error	You rushed, misread, or made an arithmetic/spelling slip.
Misread Question	You answered a different question than what was asked.
Time Pressure	You ran out of time or rushed the answer.
Recall Failure	You couldn't retrieve the information under exam conditions.

ERROR ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

Assessment / Test / Paper:

Question + My Wrong Answer	Error Type Correct Answer What I Need to Review

Pattern I notice in my errors — what do I keep getting wrong and why?

Specific action I will take to address this pattern: