

The six-week ESAT plan

A late-starter sprint that begins with evidence and spends hours where marks can actually move.

THE SHORT ANSWER

Start with one timed diagnostic in every required module. Rank gaps by **recoverable marks per hour**, repair Mathematics 1 fluency because every module assumes it, then move from clean untimed work to 89-second decisions and full sittings. Six weeks is enough for a focused improvement plan, not for pretending every chapter deserves equal time.

Checked against the sources named in this guide, August 2026. British English. Free to share.

1 Your first session is a measurement, not revision

Sit a 40-minute set in each module your course requires, on separate days if necessary. Use a desktop, no calculator and one blank sheet. Mark it, then label every missed or slow question:

Code	What happened	First repair
K	Knowledge was missing	Recall sheet, then five varied applications
R	Knowledge was there; route was not	Compare two solutions and practise the shorter cue
E	Algebra, arithmetic, sign or unit failed	Slow clean reps, then a three-question timed set
T	Correct route, but too slow or left blank	Bank-and-return drills; option testing and estimation

For each topic, estimate

$$\text{priority score} = \frac{\text{marks you can plausibly recover}}{\text{focused hours needed}}.$$

This is a planning ratio, not a predicted score. Four unit-conversion misses fixable in two hours outrank one exotic question likely to consume four hours.

1 The tell

Your plan is too vague if it says “revise Physics”. A useful line says “P6.2 refraction: 3 misses, two were direction errors; 75 minutes on diagrams, then 10 mixed questions”. Small enough to finish, specific enough to retest.

2 The order that buys the most

- Only required modules.** A beautiful Biology week earns nothing for a course requiring Physics.
- Mathematics 1 fluency.** The official specification says every other module assumes it. Fractions, rearranging, units, ratio, graphs and estimation pay rent in the sciences too.
- Short, repeated recall gaps.** Chemical tests, exact trig values, circuit relations or hormone roles can return several reachable marks quickly.

4. **Repeated route errors.** If the same probability tree, equilibrium shift or force diagram fails twice, it is no longer random noise.
5. **Long-tail hard topics.** Earn these after blanks, unit slips and two-minute algebra have stopped leaking marks.

Use a default week of about eight focused hours: four 75-minute sessions, one 90-minute session and one two-hour review. If you have less time, shrink every block proportionally. Do not delete marking and review; that is where the next week's priorities come from.

3 Weeks 1 and 2: expose, then repair

3.1 Week 1: diagnostic and quick wins

- Complete and mark every required-module diagnostic.
- Build the K/R/E/T error table and calculate rough priority scores.
- Repair the top Mathematics 1 fluency leak and the two shortest recall gaps.
- Finish with one 9-question set in 13 minutes. Record attempted, correct and guessed.

3.2 Week 2: the two biggest mark leaks

Choose two high-priority topics, not six. For each, use a 75-minute block: 15 minutes recall from memory, 25 minutes careful problems, 20 minutes mixed timed questions, 15 minutes error rewrite. Retest the original diagnostic questions two days later without notes.

2 Try it

Cover your solution and write only the clue that should trigger it: "without replacement $\Rightarrow$ denominator changes"; "strict maximum $\Rightarrow$ test endpoints"; "parallel circuit $\Rightarrow$ same voltage". The clue is what has to survive at question 24.

4 Week 3: turn knowledge into a short route

Mix topics now. The target is not instant brilliance; it is a decision inside 20 seconds: solve, estimate, eliminate, or bank.

Worked example A probability question with a hidden second root

A bag contains n red counters and $n + 2$ blue counters, where $n > 3$. Two counters are drawn without replacement. The probability that they have the same colour is $7/15$. How many counters are in the bag?
Write favourable ordered pairs over all ordered pairs:

$$\frac{n(n-1) + (n+2)(n+1)}{(2n+2)(2n+1)} = \frac{7}{15}.$$

Cross-multiply and simplify:

$$15(2n^2 + 2n + 2) = 7(4n^2 + 6n + 2),$$

$$n^2 - 6n + 8 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad (n-2)(n-4) = 0.$$

The condition $n > 3$ selects $n = 4$, so the total is

$$n + (n + 2) = 10.$$

Correct: The route uses one denominator, preserves both same-colour cases and checks the condition after solving.
Trap: Using $n/(2n+2)$ twice treats the second draw as though the first counter were replaced. Stopping at $n = 2$ ignores the stem.

Code the delta. If you missed the changing denominator, repair dependent probability. If factorisation was slow, algebra has cross-module priority. If the model was clear but took four minutes, practise setting up the single fraction without narrating every branch.

5 Week 4: make 40 minutes feel normal

Sit three full module sets across the week. Use checkpoints at 13, 26 and 38 minutes. At each checkpoint, the next action is automatic: bank a sticky question, fill any blank before the end, and return only if the remaining time has a job.

Review for longer than you sit. For every error, write:

clue missed → short route → check.

Example: “same colour” → add red-red and blue-blue → probabilities must total at most 1. Recalculate priority scores from this week’s evidence; do not keep Week 1’s plan out of loyalty.

6 Weeks 5 and 6: simulate, then taper

6.1 Week 5: two complete sittings

Do two back-to-back sittings using your exact module combination, with realistic handovers and no pause. Leave at least two days between them. On the days between, fix only repeated errors: the same cause twice is a pattern; a single monster question is not a curriculum.

Your scoreboard has four numbers per module: correct, attempted, avoidable errors and blanks. A higher attempted count with five extra execution mistakes is not progress. Aim for a cleaner first pass and fewer unplanned two-minute battles.

6.2 Week 6: one final read, not a panic rewrite

- Early week: one final full sitting and a calm post-mortem.
- Middle: short mixed sets, exact recall and the top three recurring traps.
- Final 48 hours: no new topic with a long prerequisite chain.
- Final day: ID, route, booking confirmation, food, sleep and one light formula-recall pass.

If you fall behind, preserve the order: diagnostic evidence, required modules, Mathematics 1 fluency, repeated leaks, timed integration. Cutting an obscure chapter is sensible. Cutting the only full sitting is not.

7 Sources

UAT-UK, ESAT Content Specification for October 2026 and January 2027

Every module contains 27 questions in 40 minutes; Mathematics 1 is assumed by the other modules; the official examinable content. [Open the ESAT hub.](#)

UAT-UK, Prepare

Official materials familiarise candidates with content, style and test player; practice performance need not predict exam-day performance. [Read the preparation advice.](#)

The hours and ordering are a study recommendation, not a score guarantee. Re-rank topics from your own timed evidence every week.