Neurodiversity Home 101: Learner tips for the exam room

The exam room
✓ Try to remember all the advice your lecturers or teachers gave you.
✓ Listen carefully to what the exam invigilator tells you.
✓ Check that you have all pages, questions, answer sheets and scrap paper.
✓ Read ALL the instructions on the paper….even if you think you know them….because they can change.
✓ Check your desk/chair is comfortable.
✓ Put your watch where you can see it easily.
✓ Relax, calm down….take a few deep breaths.
✓ Think positively – believe in yourself.
✓ Make sure you check how many questions you need to answer and at least attempt all of them. If in doubt, ask the invigilator or examiner.
✓ If you have been awarded extra time, check that the invigilator knows

Planning, timing & technique
✓ Before you start writing, read the questions 2-3 times….slowly. Don’t rush at this point, it is very important to know exactly what you have to do.
✓ Use a highlighter to highlight key words in the questions.
✓ Consider the weighting of marks each question carries, don’t spend too much time on areas that carry few marks and then have to rush areas with more marks.
✓ Estimate how long each part will take to finish.
✓ Allow time for choosing, planning, writing, checking and proof-reading. Leave 10-15 minutes at the end of the exam to read through and check your answers.
✓ Consider starting with answers you know best. This may help your confidence and leave time for answers you’re more worried about.
✓ Check the time after each part is completed to make sure you are on track.
✓ If you are short of time, it’s better to write an essay in note-form than write nothing at all. Write an introduction, outline the argument in bullet-points, and then write your conclusion.