Jess's Tips to Turn Lost Marks into Gained Marks

When it comes to getting back our mocks results, we tend to be really good at concentrating on where we did well and not so good at facing the areas where we lost marks. This was certainly the case for me in my final year of school! The thing we often don't realise is that these mistakes are actually the key to our future success in our real exams. If we understand where we went wrong and why, it makes regaining those lost marks a whole lot easier. Figuring this out completely changed my approach to study in my final year and had a huge impact on my final mark. Have a look below to see the process I used to use. And remember, it works for homework and practice questions as well as your mock exams!

Step 1: Where did those marks go?
- Go through and look at your teacher's marking
- Make a list of the questions that you got wrong

Step 2: How do I get those marks back?
- Look through your subject notes and see if you can correct the questions you got wrong
- Speak to your teacher about any questions where you don't know what lost you the marks
- Your teacher can tell you exactly what you need to do to get them back

Step 3: Record
- Create a document where you store all your weak-spots in each subject and the correct answers to questions about them
- I save this and call it my 'Bullet-Proof Booklet' – because it makes me exam bullet-proof!

Step 4: Fix
- Go back and correct the parts of your exam you lost marks on
- Remember not to re-do the whole exam or question, just the areas where you lost marks before so you can add those marks in!

Step 5: Mark
- Mark your corrects using the answer booklet if your exam has one
- If there isn't an answer booklet ask your teacher to help (just remember not to give them 20 exams-worth of marking all at once!)
- When you get your corrections back, repeat these five steps on any remaining mistakes so you are continually improving your weak areas.