ATAR
Notes

QCE Maths Methods Units 1&2
Complete Course Notes
2023–2025

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Preface

Welcome to Mathematical Methods Units 1&2! I'm Vinh Nguyen, a past student who has taken both the Methods and Specialist Maths courses, here to guide you through this challenging – but reasonable – subject. I have always taken a liking to mathematics throughout high school, and in these notes, I will give you all the tips and tricks I've learned along the way.

Right off the bat, you may have chosen this course for a variety of reasons, such as for university prerequisites, but the best tip I can give right now if you are just starting this course is to **persevere through the beginning!** It can be a jolting step up from your previous maths classes. In my experience, I would say over half of the students in my Methods cohort dropped the course by the end of Unit 1. So, be prepared to put in the effort to study and set feasible expectations for yourself, and don't worry if you find things a bit challenging at first.

Remember that your final ATAR result depends solely on assessments in Units 3&4, so your performance in Units 1&2 won't *directly* count. However, don't be fooled – many students will 'take it easy' in Year 11 and think that they can 'start fresh' in Year 12 if things go awry. For Methods, Units 3&4 directly build on the content in Units 1&2, so it is absolutely necessary to pay attention now! Whilst undertaking Units 3&4 of Methods, I found that many students had to go back to relearn the basics of topics like trigonometric functions – while you will inevitably forget some things, do your best to avoid this scenario, and you'll make Year 12 much easier for yourself!

Finally, Maths Methods is a 'doing' subject; the best way for you to use this book is to go through the examples to understand how the concepts are applied, then try to practise some questions for yourself until the theory really sticks with you. If you study regularly and make sure to practise problems every time you cover a new topic, you'll be well on your way to success in Units 1&2!

— Vinh Nguyen

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