* **Often, a little planning can save a lot of time. Don't do unnecessary steps. Eg, if it asks you to find the length of the tangent from a point to the circle. Find the length, not where the tangent is.**
* Don't make assumptions; be explicit in what you're doing. Write answers as if someone watching you over your shoulder can follow what you’re doing without you needing to speak. This can be done by...
  + Setting quadratics, cubics, and quartics equal to zero.
  + Always being explicit in parts (e.g., writing m1 x m2 = - 1).
* Have a clear head when dealing with complicated algebra.
* List the restrictions on any variables at the start as you cannot count on yourself to remember them at the end (e.g., what the denominator/square root cannot equal or what the range of values is).
* Techniques such as similar triangles should be used far more often.
* You cannot cancel trigonometric functions from both sides unless you’re replacing them with another (e.g., tan). Thus, you need to factorise or something to avoid eliminating a solution.
* Always draw a sketch - especially for (coordinate) geometry - as it can help you realise what you gotta do.
* Don’t treat integration and differentiation separately. Don’t worry when you get asked for the integral of sin(x), think, “what do I differentiate to give sin(x)” and that is -cos(x) + c.
* Always remember the + and - when square rooting.

## Calculator-Specific

* Use the storage feature more often to prevent miswriting values.
* Write an equation using variables into the calculator then use the storage function to define variables later. This is useful for checking solutions to trigonometric equations.
  + Or use the ‘CALC’ button.
* You can use the minimum point to complete the square for you.