On the Subject of Algebra

"Why do we need to study algebra? We'll never use it in real life…" Anybody else remember saying that?

- The module consists of a number pad and two screens.
- In three stages, the module displays an equation involving the variables *a*, *b* and *c*, respectively.
- Solve the equation for *a*, *b* or *c* and enter the answer to progress to the next stage.
- In each equation, the variables *x*, *y* and *z* may appear. Calculate their values using the columns of the following table:

$x = n$		$y = i - p$		$z = m + t \times d$	
n = sum of digits in the serial number		i = number of indicators p = number of ports		m = number of modules t = number of AA batteries d = number of D batteries	
3 or more battery holders present?	+2	2 or fewer battery holders present?	-2	No battery holders present?	+3
RJ-45 port present?	-1	Serial port present?	+3	Parallel port present?	-6
Lit BOB indicator present?	+4	Unlit FRQ indicator present?	-5	Lit MSA indicator present?	+2
Serial number contains a vowel?	-3	Sum of the serial number digits is prime?	+4	Sum of the serial number digits is divisible by 3?	+1