

HSC Extension 1 Mathematics

Take responsibility for your own learning

It is essential that you take control of your own revision and manage your time between your subjects so that you continue to learn the new topics as well as revise.

When learning new work you need to be committed to **practising a wide variety of questions** and seeking out from a range of resources different kinds and questions and solutions.

Practising and Revising

At the same time, every week you need to do some revision of past topics, particularly practising skills from the preliminary courses that you need to use. You should be **bringing good or difficult questions to class to ask me** and share with other students ON A REGULAR BASIS.

Journals

Make your own summaries (or journal) rather than relying on published summaries. These should include formulas, diagrams and hints as well as FULLY WORKED SOLUTIONS to a range of questions. It is very powerful to also include examples of the **common mistakes** you made when doing the topic with reminders and notes (thought bubbles) to remind you how to correct your errors (as we often make the same mistakes unless we are alert to them).

Doing past papers

Make a plan of review of the whole course that includes doing past papers. Make sure there are some past papers you do not look at so that you can use them after the Trials. Use these exams to do under timed conditions so that you can “feel” how fast you should be working to be efficient and accurate and to attempt every question.

Start now (if you haven’t already!)

The work you put in at this stage of the course has an enormous impact on your performance and your confidence. Don’t put off your study (your revision), put in the ground work now.

Examinations and Assessments

Be prepared for the exams.

Live life well

Have plenty of sleep, exercise regular from now until the last exam is over (and the rest of your life, of course!) and have *some* fun! Eat a nutritious balanced diet from now until then!!

Do NOT stay awake studying the night before exams, don't drink heaps of coffee and don't eat copious lollies & chocolate.

Have all your equipment

Sharpened pencils, pens, rules, eraser, calculator (or two!), Maths Mate.

Don't stress

Do not stress before or during exams and assessments. It won't help the situation. If you have prepared thoroughly you now need to relax and just do your best. If your preparation has not been thorough enough, getting stressed will only make the situation worse! You still need to relax, talk positively to yourself and attempt every question and **every part of every question** carefully.

Pens and diagrams

Write in blue or black pen. Draw your diagrams in pencil using ruler and Maths Mate. Make the diagrams neat, at least 7 lines high and show all significant features including naming the axes and putting some values on sketches.

DO NOT USE LIQUID PAPER – if you want to change an answer just put a line through it but leave it for the marker to see your working. You may be given marks for your original working even if it still crossed out.

Plan your time.

Make sure you leave time to make a good attempt at every question. Even if the last questions are very difficult you often can gain significant marks by attempting each part of each question.

Read the question carefully and highlight what information you are given and what needs to be found. Consider the best approach. After you think you have finished the question **go back and read it again** to see if you are giving the answer in the form they want, to the correct decimal place, the units required etc. Sometimes you then realised you haven't quite answered the actual question and need to do another line or two of working.

SHOW ALL YOUR WORKING, even if you can do some of it in your head make sure you are communicating with the marker and letting them know your thinking. Do not round off in the middle of a calculation.

Plan to have a calm, positive attitude in an examination. Don't stress yourself or others beforehand and **KEEP YOUR PERSPECTIVE**. **These situations may be challenging but they are manageable and just one part of your full life.**

