

TOP 10 TIPS FOR MATHS

A guide on
how to make the most of this course
and get the best possible grade

1) Engage!

Nothing guarantees success like just engaging with all the (asynchronous) activities provided and turning up to the (synchronous) live sessions and tutorials and participating to the best of your ability.

2) Review

It is unlikely that you will understand everything straight away.

So go over the material again and again.

Maths is about solving problems, not about finding a number.

So focus on identifying:

WHY we do things

HOW we approach certain types of problems

3) Use the resources available

- i) **Lecture notes**
- ii) **Worked examples** in tutorial sheets
- iii) **Recommended textbooks**
- iv) **Online material** QMplus and links given there
- v) But keep looking around for yourself — there is tons of good stuff out there!
- vi) If you find a useful or interesting website, let me know and I will post it on QM+
- vii) **Tutors, office hours, Support Class**

In the end everyone has their own way to learn.

Find the way that works best for you.

4) Don't be afraid of mistakes

Everyone makes mistakes, including lecturers and tutors.

Important:

Use your mistakes to help you get better.

Mistakes help you identify

- what you know and
- where you need to improve.

We (tutors and me) give you lots of formal and informal feedback on how to get better.

Make the most of it!

**Ever tried?
Ever failed?
No matter.
Try again.
Fail again.
Fail better.**

- Samuel Beckett

5) Do the tutorial sheets (yourself!)

- This is the ideal training ground to make mistakes.
And no one but you will know about them, as they don't get graded.
- They allow you to identify your problems, get help from the tutors and feel more comfortable with the material.
- Hence you will score more marks on the tests (remember 3 tests are **50% of the mark**) and on the **final exam** (exam is **50% of the mark**).

6) Check your solutions

Check that your solutions actually solve the **original problem**.
This is the simplest way to discover mistakes and correct them yourself.

You can do this by hand or using online tools like [Wolfram Alpha](http://www.wolframalpha.com/).

<http://www.wolframalpha.com/>

7) Ask for help and help others

You went through all the resources and you are still stuck
Then ask us for help. We are here to help **you!**

Before you ask a question or ask for help, be able to answer these questions:

- What part do you understand?
- What have you tried?
- What exactly are you looking for?

Because with the answers to these questions

- You are clearer about the problem and hence can use our help efficiently
- We can target our help/examples etc.

Explaining your work to others is a **highly underrated learning tool**.
It helps them **AND** it helps you understand things even better.

7) Ask for help and help others

Peer assistance study programme

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/teachers/our-activities/pass/>

Check for PASS at your respective SCHOOL.

8) Revise again and again

The temptation is to tick off a topic on your list and think "done that one!"
Maths is very inter-connected: everything links to everything else.

All learning requires **repetition** and **revision**.
Small but regularly is better than all at once.

So

The more you study the basics, the more easily you understand the harder stuff.
The better you understand Maths B in the first semester the easier the second semester becomes.

9) Keep up to date

Check the module web pages on QM+ and the SEFP pages regularly.

Make sure you don't miss any **deadlines, alterations, opportunities etc.**

10) It is all worth it

Don't think of maths as a necessary evil but as a **valuable tool** and **skill**.

It will help you with many interesting topics in your course and allow you to excel at them.

And excellent analytical Maths skills are in high demand in the job market, in pretty much any profession.