

## Subject-Based Strategies (SBS) for PSLE MATHEMATICS (Std)

### TIPS TO DO WELL FOR PSLE MATHS PAPER

#### What questions are there in Math Paper 1?

Paper 1 of the PSLE Math Exam paper consists of Booklet A and Booklet B. Booklet A is made up of simple Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) while Booklet B has questions that require short answers. Since the Math questions in this section are rather straight forward and do not involve complex calculations, no calculators are allowed.

Hence, it is relatively simple to do sufficiently well in this part of the paper as long as you have a strong foundation in Math.

It is crucial to do well in this part of the paper in order to secure as many marks as you can. Hence, you need to aim for as close as a perfect score as possible.

<b>Booklet A</b>	10 MCQ	1 Marks / Question	10%
	5 MCQ	2 Marks / Question	10%
<b>Booklet B</b>	5 Short-Answer Questions	1 Marks / Question	5%
	10 Short-Answer Questions	2 Marks / Question	20%
	<b>Total</b>	45 Marks	45%

#### What questions are there in Math Paper 2?

Paper 2 of the PSLE Math Exam paper starts with 5 short answer questions, followed by 12 long answer questions. The questions consist of problem sums (word problems) that cover a variety of difficulty levels. They are usually more indirect and require you to make use of Math heuristics to solve. Calculators are allowed for this section.

5 Short-Answer Questions	2 Marks / Question	10%
12 Long-Answer Questions	3-5 Marks / Question	45%
<b>Total</b>	55 Marks	55%

#### What should you do?

##### 1. Identify Weak Areas and Work On Them

To identify weak areas, look through recent examination papers and practice papers from the school. Where were marks lost? Which topics were these

questions based on? This would be a good indication of weak areas. Plug the leak by working on these areas!

## **2. Focus On Key Topics**

- Measurement
- Fraction
- Ratio

Although we do not set out to spot topics since most topics are still covered in the paper, there are some topics that are more heavily weighted than others. The 3 topics above have been found to generally appear more often than others. Spend some time to ensure that you are able to answer questions on these topics from past year papers.

## **3. Master Mechanical Sums**

Although calculators are allowed in Paper 2, they are not allowed in Paper 1. Students who score well in Mathematics are fast and accurate with their mechanical sums. That of course, imply they are very fast and accurate with their multiplication tables. Practice makes perfect. Take the time to have sufficient practice because with sufficient practice, you will achieve the necessary speed and accuracy.

## **4. Work On Problem Sums**

Most of the questions in Paper 2 are problem sums so it is worthwhile to spend sufficient time practising on solving problem sums. Think of alternative methods to solve the sums. Methods include guess and check, assumption method, drawing model, working backwards using algebra. Attempt all the questions without fail. You can get method marks.

## **5. Time Management**

Proper time management is so important! If you do not have sufficient time to attempt questions, you will not be able to answer them well! Use a simple formula of dividing the total amount of time in min by the number of marks to give yourself a sense of how many minutes you should spend on a question.

## **6. Cut Down On Common Mistakes!**

- a. Not having proper understanding of questions

This is often the result of not reading through questions carefully. Misreading is a common mistake identified during PSLE marking. This could be caused by stress due to the perceived lack of time to attempt the questions. It is important to take sufficient time to read through a question before attempting it. Such time used would be much better than redoing a question after realising you misunderstood the question later!

- b. Not checking through the remaining options in MCQ

This is true especially for the “easy” questions. After identifying the “correct” answer, it is important to check through the other 3 options! Students have reported that mistakes were found only after they checked through the other 3 options if they were indeed wrong!

- c. Problem sums

These questions are designed, to test students’ understanding and application of mathematical concepts. Before trying various heuristics to solve a problem sum, ensure that you comprehend the question first:

1. Read through the entire question
2. Break the question down into parts
3. Determine the order of steps to get to the solution

## **7. Your Brain Needs Sufficient Rest**

Last but not least, do ensure you are getting sufficient sleep! Our brain needs sufficient rest in order to function at its best! This is not about only having sufficient rest the night before. Our body clock needs time to be properly tuned!

**~Remember to stay calm and just do your best!~**