

Subject-Based Strategies (SBS) for PSLE MATHEMATICS (Fnd)
TIPS TO DO WELL FOR PSLE MATHS PAPER

1. Time Management

Use the following to find out how much time you should spend on a question before going on to the next. You can always come back to this question later.

Paper 1	Booklet A	Qn No.	No. of marks	Amt. of time for each question	Remarks
		1 – 10	1m	1 min	
		11 – 20	2m	2 min	For 1 mark: $\frac{60 \text{ min}}{50 \text{ marks}}$ = 1 min 12 s ≈ 1 min
	Booklet B	21 – 30	2m	2 min	
By following the above, there is some spare time for the questions that were skipped after you complete the last question.					
Paper 2		1 – 10	2m	3 min	For 1 mark: $\frac{60 \text{ min}}{40 \text{ marks}}$ = 1 min 30 s
		11 – 16	3m	4 min 30 s	
			4m	6 min	

Using the time allocated for the next question for the current one would not be wise because the next question's 2 marks is not going to be worth any less than the 2 marks you are struggling with!

2. Multiplication Tables Mastery

Paper	Use of calculators?	Total marks
1	No	50
2	Yes	40

As can be seen from the above, total marks for Paper 1 is **more** than that for Paper 2 and the use of calculators is **not** allowed.

This means that it is very important to be very good in your multiplication tables! This would also greatly help when you do division.

A few ways to be good at this

- Chanting (Verbal repetition of the multiplication tables over and over again)
- Skip Counting
- Using songs (Search YouTube for multiplication songs. There are plenty to choose from)
- Fingers (Works for 9 times table)
- Practise, practise, practise! (If you want to master them)

3. Mastering Mechanical Sums

Take the time to practise basic skills such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Practice makes perfect! Ensure strong fundamentals and develop conceptual understanding rather than memorising the steps. The more you practise, the better you will be.

For paper 2, focus on the process of solving the problem and not merely arriving at the final solution without understanding. Show all workings clearly step by step to score the method marks. Since calculators are allowed in paper 2, be familiar with the way they work. E.g. Keying fractions

Do not go into the exam room with pre-determined method or answer. Think of various steps to solve the sums. E.g. drawing model, pictorial for fractions, etc. Build your confidence and always think that everything is possible. Attempt all the questions even they are difficult. They can help you to score method marks.

4. Cutting down on loss of marks through careless mistakes

How? Through proper checking! Almost every student checks his or her work but many do not do it properly. They end up flipping through the paper instead of actually checking.

Proper checking involves either going through the working done earlier carefully or even doing the questions once more, depending on the amount of time you have left for checking.

Some students actually check from the back of the paper to the front. The reasoning is that we tend to be more rushed nearing the end of the paper, resulting in more careless mistakes.

5. 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!~