



Fifty percent of your final mark will come from your school assessment, so it is important to do your best throughout the year and not just in the examination.

An examination assesses what you know about a course, so be prepared to show all that you know about a topic in all of your assessments throughout the year as well as in the final external examination.

50%

BE PREPARED

- **Know your work.** Obtain and use your copy of the syllabus, and make sure you understand all that is in the syllabus. When you don't understand something, ask your teacher.
- **Actively write and revise your study notes** and use these as the basis for the notes you will take into assessments throughout the year and into the final external examination.
- Try to **memorise common facts and formulas** and use them when you are answering a question, as it will save time.

PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT

- **Revise** your notes and worked examples regularly. Practice the skills of Mathematics until they become routine.
- **Review** past examinations and tests from your school. Obtain copies of past WACE examination papers, available from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority web site and use these to guide your revision. Use the Guide to Grades resource available from your teacher, see exemplary solutions to questions.
- Look for **common words** that will give you a clue to what is required of you in the examination. E.g. What is the difference between sketch and draw?
- Be fluent in the **efficient use of your calculators**. Familiarity with the capabilities of the calculators will help save time during assessments.
- Know where to locate information on the WACE **formula sheet** and in your notes.
- Assessments are often pressure times, so practice **writing legibly** under the pressure of time, while answering the question.

Be familiar with the equipment you can use in each section of the examination. Have your equipment checked and ready to use in an examination.

IT IS ALL IN THE TIMING

- Be **familiar** with what is required in the examinations. It is predictable and follows the design brief that is in the syllabus.
- Use your **reading time** to plan your answers and the order in which you want to attempt the questions.
- In Mathematics Examinations, Section One, the calculator-free section is worth 50 marks and has a writing time of 50 minutes. Section Two, the calculator-assumed section is worth 100 marks and has a writing time of 100 minutes. Plan your timing so that you take no more time than there are marks for any question.
- Try to leave some **time for checking** and reviewing your answers, and editing when necessary.
- Read the question and answer exactly what is asked. Answer questions in the context that they were posed, round to the accuracy stated and use units, where required.
- Show all your working to demonstrate to the examiners what you know and to earn full marks for questions worth more than two marks. Show sufficient working, even when you use your calculator.

Calculator use in the WACE examinations

Calculators may be used in designated WACE examinations under the following conditions:

- Calculators must be silent, hand-held and contain their **own power source** (battery or solar operated).
- Calculators must not have the functionality to communicate **wirelessly**.
- Candidates will be entirely responsible for ensuring adequate power supply to their calculators and the proper working order of their calculators.
- Candidates must supply and be able to change their own **spare batteries** – any battery failure or other fault which limits the usefulness of a calculator during an examination will not be taken into special consideration.
- No candidate may borrow a calculator from another candidate after entering the examination room.
- Calculator instruction booklets and removable covers are classified as unauthorised materials and must not be taken into an examination room.
- Calculator memories do not have to be cleared before entry to an examination.

Scientific, Graphic, Computer Algebraic System (CAS) calculators are permitted in Section Two of the mathematics examinations. Candidates can take up to **three** CAS, graphic or scientific calculators into the examination room. Non-programmable calculators are also permitted in these examinations. Any brands or models of these calculators are permitted.

- Mathematics Applications Calculator-assumed section
- Mathematics Methods Calculator-assumed section
- Mathematics Specialist Calculator-assumed section

SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY

www.scsa.wa.edu.au

This website has students hints, the syllabus and the Guide to Grades information. Your teacher can also access the marking keys from past examinations and the examination report, which will help you by highlighting areas of strength and weakness from past examinations.

SCSA provide a Student Handbook that contains all the information required about examinations.