

o Hi,

I'd like to share some practical strategies when preparing for H2 maths exam (school or national):

0. Ideally you should start early, at least 2 months ahead of the exam.

1. Look at a couple of past year papers and analyse the questions in detail. For school exams, refer to your school's past papers. For national exams, refer to Cambridge past papers. Your analysis should focus on

- weightage of marks by topics (see an example on my website at:

<http://www.freewebs.com/weews/TOS.pdf>);

- specific skills/concepts assessed (e.g. place ticks on points within the checklists I have developed previously).

You should then have a really big picture of question trends and level of difficulty. You may even predict questions that may arise in your coming exam.

2. In your practices, attempt the questions by topics or by level of personal ease (i.e. starting from the most manageable problems in your view). Complete each question under time limit (1.8 minutes per mark) as far as possible.

3. Before you do each question:

- scan the problem statement quickly and note its requirements;

- pay attention to key skills/concepts the problem requires;

- make some quick notes about skills/concepts so that you can refer to them, if you have yet to internalise them.

4. When the time is up and you are not done with the question, analyse what held you back (e.g. lack of understanding because even cannot start, lack of speed in manipulation/evaluation, etc.). Pen your analyses down.

If you managed to complete the question, review your solution and analyse what went right and what is needed for you to improve upon (e.g. clearer and bigger diagrams, clearer working without skipping steps, carelessness in steps to be avoided, etc.). Pen your analyses down.

I must highlight that self-reflection is a necessary part for any real progress to be made. Patience and perseverance are also key ingredients of personal success.

5. Keep all these hard work you have done, because they help to serve as great reminders (of your good habits and undesirable practices that should be avoided) when you revise some time later.

Thanks!