

## VCE MATH METHODS EXAMINATION WORKSHOP

### What is Math Methods exam about?

It is not just about the Math Methods curriculum. It goes well beyond Math Methods to test your nerves and how you handle a challenging situation. Your *attitude* towards a challenging situation play as important a role as your knowledge and skills in Math Methods. Obviously, your knowledge and response are interlinked – greater your knowledge and skills, more confident and more successful your response.

Should you find a question challenging, it helps to remember the following:

1. There are over 15000 students sharing the same challenging experience at the same time.
2. All Math Methods scores are ‘normalised’ and then invariably scaled up.
3. It helps to constantly improve your skills and knowledge, and to learn ‘tricks of the trade’.
4. You are here to win the war and not each battle. Your best bet to maximise successful outcome with a challenge is to remain calm. Good examination strategies enable you to maximise your performance.

Remember Tom the cat and Jerry the mouse? They are the best of buddies, but each trying to outsmart the other. It is a game in which no party wants to destroy the other. Tom must be innovative with his tricks and Jerry must be anticipative to outsmart Tom’s pranks. Tom is not at total freedom to devise his pranks, there are boundaries determined by the study guide and the curriculum. Your best bet to deal with the prank is to remain calm. Negative emotions of frustration, fear, anger or guilt are the constant icebergs in this less than titanic journey. A calm and alert learning approach can make it very enjoyable with a successful outcome.

This workshop is not just about finding answers to questions. It is very much about understanding Tom, the examiner, and his pranks. It is about 'examining the examiner'. In the process, you might develop some respect for Tom, and for the troubles he has gone through for his innovative pranks. Very rarely, perhaps on less than five occasions in the last ten years, you might find Tom has gone bonkers, unnecessarily challenging you to an extreme limit, with a few part questions in paper 2. But remember there are over 15000 students going through the experience, there is normalising and upscaling, and most importantly you have your companion, the calculator, to relieve unnecessary and rigorous stress. Learn to make the best use of the calculator for MCQs and ERQs in Paper 2.

We shall be going through questions which scored less than 35% during the past years – the best of Tom's pranks. Watch and enjoy what Tom is up to and what Jerry can do.

All questions must be set within the theory. The examiners may change the context or the format or whatever he/she wants to change, but the question must be within the theory. Greater and in-depth understanding of the theory will not only enable you to anticipate the question but also deal with the question in most efficient manner from the available 'math methods'. Many questions require a simple and efficient approach compared to a rigorous, complicated and time-consuming approach leading to the same answer. Look out for such questions.

Feel free to ask questions and contribute to the discussion with any practical tip or innovative approach to answering a question. Remember you are all Jerrys in a team, not to outsmart each other, but to deal with Tom the ever-innovative prankster. Develop a list of practical and useful tips along this journey.

Let this workshop develop a greater understanding of Math Methods. Let it be the most enjoyable time to appreciate the wonderful world of Maths.

Best Wishes!!

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<b>MATH METHODS EXAMINATIONS WORKSHOP</b>			
<b>Sample Session Times</b>	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>
<b>Session 1</b> 10:00 to 11:30	Intro. and Paper 1	Paper 2 MCQs	Paper 2 ERQs - continued
11:30 to 11:45	Tea/Coffe/Soft Drinks/Snacks		
<b>Session 2</b> 11:45 to 1:15	Paper 1 - continued	Paper 2 MCQs- continued	Paper 2 ERQs - continued
1:15 to 2:00	Lunch at the Centre: Drinks and Pizza or Sandwiches/Toasties		
<b>Session 3</b> 2:00 to 3:15	Paper 1 - continued	Paper 2 MCQs- continued	Paper 2 ERQs - continued
3:15 to 3:30	Tea/Coffe/Soft Drinks/Snacks		
<b>Session 4</b> 3:30 to 4:30	Paper 1 - continued	Paper 2 ERQs	Pseudocodes Booklet & Examination Strategies
<b>1. Please arrive on time, preferably 5 mins. early.</b>		<b>2. PLEASE BRING YOUR CALCULATOR.</b>	
<b>3. All Materials (Exam papers, Examiners' Reports and Ashwin's Worked Solutions) will be provided.</b>		<b>4. Please make notes on Exam papers and in the Bound Reference provided.</b>	
<b>5. All Refreshments and Food will be provided.</b>		<b>6. Please provide Ashwin with your SAC Scores on Day 1.</b>	
<b>Fees to be advised, minimum 4 students.</b>			