

Study skills in mathematics

The best way to deal with stress is to prepare properly.

1. **Pay attention in class**
 - Pay attention >> Questions become easier >> Do more questions in class >> Better understanding of topic >> Homework becomes easier
 - Copy **all** notes down from the whiteboard
 - Mark your work if there are the answers in the textbook – re-do the question in purple, showing all your working
 - Annotate your class notes after doing some questions
 - Create a contents page on the front page of each notebook
2. **Do your homework yourself**
 - Homework provides **you** with an opportunity to show **you** understand the topic
 - Start the homework as soon as possible because more difficult questions may require a second attempt
 - Seek help if your best efforts do not lead to the answer
3. **End of topic: make notes of your notes**
 - Paraphrase your notes so they make sense to **you**
 - Create flash cards or lists of key facts and formulae
 - For flash cards, questions could be on one side and answers on the other, or there are flashcard apps
 - Test yourself on your flash cards/lists regularly
4. **Revision – questions, questions, questions**
 - Learning is an active process so **reading is not revision**
 - Do questions, questions, questions – see MathsPanda
 - Distributed practice (4 sessions of 30 minutes) is better than cramming (1 session of 2 hours)
 - Explain a topic to a friend or to yourself
5. **After each test, assess what you need to do to improve**
 - Do further questions on areas of difficulty

The Mathematics Department

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Updated: 21st September 2021

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