

# Last Minute IB Maths Exam Advice

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- Get at least 8 hours of sleep the night before. If after 13 years of math, you don't know it now, another 2 hours of cramming won't help.
- Be hydrated and have eaten something.
- Make sure your calculator is charged.
- You may have a backup calculator, even a scientific calculator, if you like.
- Focus. Nothing matters except the exam.
- Don't get stuck on a hard question. Move on. Get to the end of the test. Then go back and try the questions you skipped.
- Mark questions with their status, e.g. # means completely done; % means incomplete; XX means no idea.
- Ask yourself if your answer could be correct, e.g. probabilities must be  $0 \leq p \leq 1$ , compare the length you found with the other lengths in the problem, lengths & areas must be positive.
- After you think you are "done", reread the question. Maybe it says:
  - "Find the solutionsu" and you found only one
  - " $x < 0$ " and you are reporting a solution with  $x > 0$
  - " $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ " and you are reporting a solution with  $n \notin \mathbb{Z}$
  - "to the nearest degree" and you are reporting to 3 sf
  - "report in the form  $a + b\sqrt{3}$ " and you are not doing so.
- Bring a "crib sheet" of formulas not in the formula booklet, but that you need to know, to look at *one last time* just before the exam.
- If  $x^2 = k$ ,  $x = \pm\sqrt{k}$ .
- There is no need to need to simplify fully unless asked to.
- Check degree/radian mode before every trig question. Otherwise degree/radian does not matter.
- The answer to one part of a question might be needed to answer a later part.
- Remember the integrating constant,  $c$ .
- If your calculator does not show the " $r$ " value, in MODE set stat diagnostics ON.
- Nothing should be crossed out unless another version has been added.
- You will be given 5 minutes to look over the exam. Use it. In particular for section B questions, decide which one you will answer first.
- If you can't find an answer using algebra in two steps, graph it and find the intersection.
- Unless it says otherwise report your answer rounded correctly to 3 significant figures.
- Draw a sketch to help understand what is going on.
- The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything is 42.

Actually this advice is useful for most math tests.

Good luck! Don't Panic!