S1 Made Easy

Take your time and read all of these two pages. Slow down!!!!

Topics

You will have an excellent chance of at least passing semester 1 maths if you fully master the following topics:

Topic	Comment
How to create a GFD	Simple specific sequence of steps; Common exam question.
All columns in the GFD table (you won't always need them all in a specific exam question)	It is honestly essential to know the GFD table well as it typically is part of both question 1 and question 2 on the final exam, and also part of CAs.
"Less than" and "Less than percentage" chart for a GFD	These are the most useful charts, and are the most commonly asked, particularly the percentage version. Such charts are possible in question 1 as a chart, and also in question 2 as part of a median, quartiles, percentiles question.
Histogram for a GFD	Next most commonly asked chart; Also possible in question 1 as a chart, and/or in question 2 as part of a mode question.
Mean, median and mode for a simple list/set of values	Basic knowledge. Part of CAs.
Mean, median and mode for a GFD using the GFD table columns	One of these is almost always on the exam, and part of CAs.
All of index numbers	Index numbers is fairly simple stuff, as it is basically calculations of percentages, ie one number divided by another times 100%. Many past students have done well from question 3 on the final exam, and these will also be part of CA.

All of these topics are covered in detail in the hyperlinked notes, and also in the web document: S1 Made Easy Details. You can make a free copy of the hyperlinked notes, to bring home, at ITB. Just copy the BM Common folder called **Hyperlinked Notes** to your USB key.

WARNING: Stating the obvious, but more than the listed topics is typically required to achieve a higher grade.

HELP!

In addition to the topics above the other thing that most people benefit from is HELP! If you have difficulties with any or all of the above topics then you will have to do something about it!!! We all need help, plain and simple. I needed help back in college, and I still need help from time to time nowadays.

Secondly: DON'T PANIC!! Slow down … and work systematically (details given in next section).

Honestly, and I wouldn't put this in writing if I didn't fully 100% believe it to be true … Almost anyone can at least pass business maths at ITB. What differentiates between those that pass and those that don't are in broad terms:

- People who don't practice maths (some people just leave it too late in the semester)
- People who don't ask for help when stuck

Honestly: You must not fall into either trap if you genuinely want to pass maths. And if you do practice weekly, and ask for help as and when you need it, then I would fully expect you will at least pass overall. You must do these things for both the CAs and the final exam, as it is the combination of marks that will get anyone through.

It generally doesn't make much difference how you have gotten on with maths before coming to ITB. If you put in the time and effort you should have every chance of passing. I've seen it with many past students!!
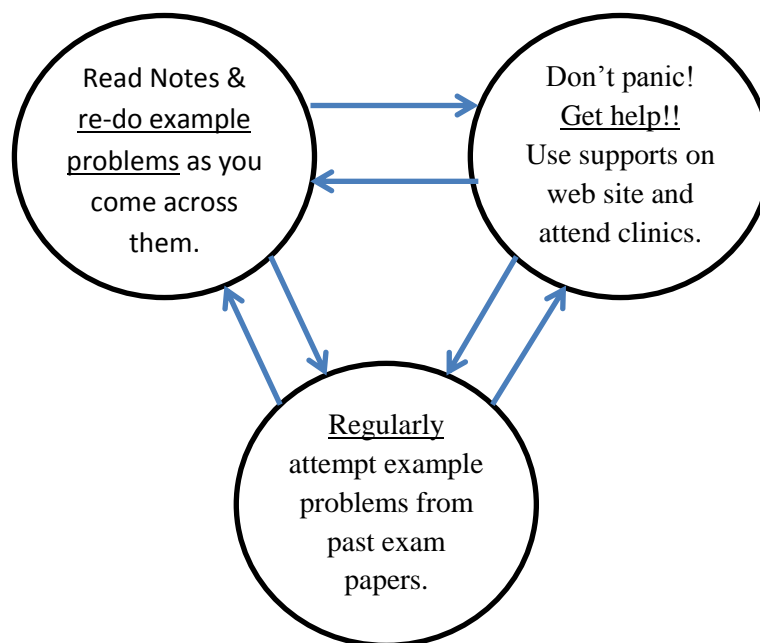
HOW TO STUDY MATHS?

Maths is mostly a "doing" subject … You have to <u>do</u> maths. The way I would study the above topics is a combination of:

- I'd read the material in the hyperlinked notes, and the <u>S1 Made Easy Details</u> document. As I come across example problems I would redo them for myself … Maths is a <u>doing</u> subject … You have to do it for yourself. Just reading it is almost a waste of time if it is not followed up by practice.

- If stuck on anything: Don't panic! Don't give up, don't just skip it!! <u>Do</u> see if there is anything extra on the web site, such as a video, or in BM Common at ITB; where there are more videos. And <u>do</u> attend a drop-in clinic for a few minutes, and ask the lecturer about the topic to get past where you are stuck.

- I'd then look at past exam papers for more practice questions … and over the course of the semester I would keep doing questions from the past exam papers … these are available in the Hyperlinked Notes. The model answers are also available in the Hyperlinked Notes so you can look up anything you get stuck on to see what we suggested as part of the answer.

This all takes time, so doesn't work well if crammed in just before a CA or the final exam. Maths takes time, so do weekly work to make some progress, however small it might be, every week. I suggest at least 4 hours of practice/study outside of class time <u>every week</u>.

Graphically I would represent the ideal way to prepare for maths as:

The key to passing maths is PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE … LOTS and LOTS and LOTS of practicing problems!!!

THIRD LEVEL

At third level you will be expected to work away for yourself, without direction from me, on your own, and to then seek out support and help as and when you need it. There are lots of supports available for maths, and it is up to you to develop and maintain good behaviours from the start if you want to have a decent chance of passing overall.

Don't mind what your mates are doing, or what you think the rest of the class are doing … you need to do what you need to do!! As mentioned above, the suggested amount of independent study time for maths, per week, is at least 4 hours.