

STRATEGIES FOR PSLE MATH PAPER 1

1. ELIMINATION METHOD

Multiple-choice questions might seem like a game of chance there's a smarter way to approach these questions. It's called the **elimination method**, and it boosts your chances better than random guessing. This technique helps you make educated guesses, which can also save you valuable time during exams.

The elimination method starts with reading the question carefully and immediately crossing out any obviously wrong answers. Now, students have a 50% chance of choosing the correct answer from the two remaining options that seem more reasonable.

Example:

What is the length of a whiteboard in a classroom?

1. 3 cm
2. 30 cm
3. 3 m
4. 30 m



This question tests your understanding of measurement units and logical thinking, including estimation and elimination skills.

- First, consider the options. A child's shortest finger is about 3 cm long—clearly too short for a whiteboard, so eliminate 3 cm immediately.
- Next, think about the size of a classroom, typically 6 to 10 meters long. A row of three buses would be around 30 meters—much too long for a whiteboard, so cross out 30 m.

- Finally, a standard ruler is 30 cm, but a whiteboard that size would barely fit a single letter.
- The most logical answer is 3 meters, which is the typical length of a classroom whiteboard.

2. Double-Checking by Substitution

After solving a problem, it's essential to check if your solution is correct. One reliable way to do this is through substitution—taking your final answer and plugging it back into the original problem to ensure it works. This is especially useful for questions involving equations or values that can be verified.

How It Works:

Once you've arrived at an answer, take a few seconds to substitute it back into the original question to see if it fits logically and mathematically.

Example:

Question:

A shop sells 5 pens for \$12.50. How much does 1 pen cost?

Step 1: Solve the problem.

$$1 \text{ pen} = 12.50 \div 5 = 2.50$$



Step 2: Substitute the answer back into the question to check.

If 1 pen costs \$2.50, then 5 pens should cost:

$$5 \times 2.50 = 12.50$$

Since the amount matches the given price in the question, the answer is correct.

Why It Helps:

This method of substitution not only verifies that your answer is right but also helps you avoid simple calculation mistakes, which can be common under exam pressure.