

RESOURCES AND STUDY TIPS FOR MATHEMATICS

Prepared by Randall Pyke rpyke@sfu.ca

Structure of mathematics classes:

- Instructor + Teaching Assistant(s)
- 3 or 4 hours lecture per week
- Workshops (Open Lab; room 3695)
- Course material available on WebCT;
www.webct.sfu.ca

Math help:

- Textbook ;
 - read sections covered (before doing homework)
 - study examples
 - **do problems!** (\rightarrow understanding)
- Lecture notes and other material (if available);
 - Check course website

- Instructor ;
 - visit during office hours or make appointment
 - be prepared! Try problems first; determine where difficulty arises
- TA (teaching assistant) ;
 - visit in Open Lab during assigned times (TAs are assigned to particular courses)
 - be prepared; study material or problems first (TAs will not do homework problems)
- Other students ;
 - discuss topics with your fellow students
 - work together on practice problems (Homework problems are to be done individually)

Study Strategies:

- Attend all lectures!
- Read over lecture notes;
correct errors, make notes, summarize
- Read textbook, study examples.

Learn to read mathematics!

- **Understand notation!** Mathematics is full of special symbols and notations. Each one represents an idea or concept. Use them!
- **Don't fall behind!** You need to study
at least 2 hours for every hour of lecture
per week (so, at least 6 hours per week
for each math course).

- ★★★ Do many practice problems! ★★★
- ★★★ Get help when you need it! ★★★
Speak to the instructor, speak to a TA,
speak to your classmates.

Don't wait!!

- Exam/tests: Prepare summary sheet,
review homework and examples, discuss with
classmates, "practice" tests, start early

Plan ahead!

Resources:

- www.math.sfu.ca → undergrad → 1st year Survival Guide
- www.math.sfu.ca → undergrad → Practice Calculus Readiness Test
- www.math.sfu.ca/ugrad/workshops/cw/ Previous year's calculus exams.
- *Schaum's Outlines* (study guides); Calculus, Algebra, Linear Algebra, Finite Mathematics, Precalculus, etc. These study books summarize the theory and give plenty of worked out examples. They also include problems with answers in the back. (There are other, similar, study guides available; check a large bookstore, eg., SFU Burnaby, Chapters, etc.)