

ABOUT THE STANDARD

- ◆ Level 2 algebra is building on the concepts you have been learning all the way through school. Make sure you have a solid understanding of the concepts you have learnt in level 1.
- ◆ You only need a minimum of 3 out of 8 excellence questions to get excellence on this paper.

COMMON MISTAKES

- ◆ Questions are not ordered in increasing levels of difficulty. If you get stuck with a really tricky question at the start, don't stress! Go onto the next question and come back if you gave time at the end.
- ◆ Be careful about using the correct signs when expanding, factorising and working with fractions.
- ◆ Remember that when dealing with indices, the laws apply to *indices*! The same rules apply to regular numbers as they always have throughout school.

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- ◆ Be familiar with your calculator, use it when you do practice questions at home and in class so that you become familiar with all of the tips and tricks!
- ◆ Also, knowing a few basic number to simple powers will become really handy when picking up on patterns especially in logs and indice questions.
- ◆ Be really comfortable with quadratics and everything about them. Be able to use the quadratic formula comfortably and your calculator to draw parabolic graphs.

TIPS FOR TRICKY EXCELLENCE QUESTIONS

- ◆ When revising and you get stuck:
 1. Identify the context of the answer and what it might look like i.e. units and a rough approximation of an answer that is probable
 2. Re-read the question and break up exactly what each line is telling you
 3. Try to draw out the shape or a diagram to help you
 4. If the question is asking about a parabola or a shape that might be a parabola, draw it on a set of axes and label the points you know
 5. Check through the excellence exam scripts if you are really stuck and try to follow the working of the person who wrote the answer
- ◆ If you're in the exam:
 1. Don't freak out! You are not meant to know everything and you certainly don't have to to get excellence.
 2. Write out what you know about the question and what you are trying to figure out

3. It might also help to look at parts b,c and d to get some clues about the main theme of the question. Be careful though, they don't always follow a pattern

OVERALL

- ◆ We have gone through some tips and tricks but this is certainly not everything you need to know for your exam. Go through practice questions, past papers and StudyTime's walkthrough guides to help you prepare for your exam.
- ◆ Remember to stay calm in the exam, you do not need to know everything to do really well. Goodluck!