

RULES ON THE USE OF CALCULATORS IN EXAMINATIONS

The 'Instructions for Conducting Examinations' booklet produced by the Joint Council for Qualifications states the following instructions apply to all exams unless otherwise stated in an exam board's specification. If in doubt, check with your Maths teacher.

You may use a calculator in an exam unless it is prohibited by the exam board's specification. Where the use of a calculator is allowed, you are responsible for making sure that your calculator meets the exam board's regulations. When a calculator is **not** allowed, you must leave it in your bag outside the exam room.

Edexcel, the exam board we use for Mathematics, confirmed that you are allowed only **one** calculator in the exam room.

- ✓ Your calculator must be of a size suitable for use on the exam desk, and must be either battery or solar powered.
- ✓ You **MUST** clear anything stored in your calculator
- ✓ It is your responsibility to always carry spare batteries for your calculator. It is also your responsibility to ensure that your calculator is in good working order.
- ✓ Calculators must be free of:
 - (i) Lids, cases, or covers
 - (ii) Printed instructions / instruction leaflets
 - (iii) Formulas
- ✓ You may not borrow a calculator from other candidates during the course of an examination for any reason.
- ✓ Calculators designed or adapted to offer any of the following facilities are prohibited:
 - language translators
 - symbolic algebra manipulation
 - symbolic differentiation or integration
 - if they are able to communicate with other machines or the internet.
- ✓ Calculators that have any retrievable data stored in them are prohibited. This includes;
 - data banks
 - dictionaries
 - mathematical formulas
 - text
- ✓ The introduction or use of any calculators with the functions or facilities described above will be regarded as malpractice.

Where access to a calculator is permitted for part of an exam, it is acceptable for you to place your calculator on the floor under your desk in sight of the invigilators for the non-calculator portion of the exam.

As there are so many makes/models of calculators available it is impossible to issue a definitive list of the models that are permissible / not permitted, but the following is a list of those about which most enquiries are received.

PERMITTED

The basic rule is that if a calculator gives only numeric answers e.g. equation solving, gradients, and the area under a curve then it is within the regulations and can be used.

All other calculators (including graphic calculators) which do not have the facility for symbolic manipulation and/or symbolic differentiation or integration can be used.

Students frequently query the use of two specific calculators – the Casio fx99 I ES and The Texas TI-83 and TI-84 (all versions). These calculators can be used.

PROHIBITED

Casio:

Cfx 9950g; Algebra FX2.0; Algebra FX2.0 PLUS; ClassPad 300;
ClassPad 300 PLUS; ClassPad 330

Hewlett Packard:

HP 40G; HP 40GS; HP 48G; HP 48G II; HP 49G; HP 49G PLUS;
HP 50G;

Texas Instruments:

TI-89; TI-89 (Titanium); TI-92, TI-92 PLUS; Voyage 200;
TI-nspire CAS

NB:

If you are in any doubt about the suitability of your calculator for use in exams, please seek advice from your mathematics teacher as soon as possible, and certainly before the day of your first Maths exam.