

How to Evaluate How Well You Study in Mathematics Courses

In order to identify the areas in which you can stand to improve the most, you should complete the following survey. The scoring method is described at the end of the survey.

Completing the Survey

For each statement, circle the number that most closely indicates the degree of your agreement or disagreement.

I. Your Attitude and Approach in Mathematics Courses

	strongly disagree				strongly agree
1. I usually believe that I can do well in mathematics courses.	1	2	3	4	5
2. I am usually enthusiastic about learning mathematics.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I believe that I am good at math.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I work persistently in mathematics courses, regardless of how well I do on the tests.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I usually enjoy taking mathematics courses.	1	2	3	4	5

II. Classroom and Homework Habits

	strongly disagree				strongly agree
1. I miss at most two class hours per semester.	1	2	3	4	5
2. I always get to class on time.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I usually find it easy to understand what goes on in mathematics classes.	1	2	3	4	5
4. If I don't understand something in class, I will usually ask the teacher about it.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I usually take clear and complete notes in mathematics class.	1	2	3	4	5

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. I usually read my class notes carefully before the next class. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. I almost always make a persistent effort to do my homework before the next class. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. If I have questions arising from the homework, I ask my teacher or another student. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. I find a way to check my solutions to homework problems before the next class. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. I frequently discuss homework and class notes with other students. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. If I have trouble understanding the textbook, I find other ways to master the concepts. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. Even if I understand most of what goes on in class, I am usually careful to do the homework before the next class. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

III. Mathematics Test Preparation

- | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|----------------|---|---|
| | strongly disagree | | strongly agree | | |
| 1. I obtain or make a list of all the topics that may appear on the test. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. I write solutions to several problems on every topic, one at a time, before looking at the answers. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. I never leave most of my studying for the test until the day before the test. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. I work on one topic until I master it, and only then do I go on to the next topic. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

	strongly disagree			strongly agree	
5. I make sure that I master every topic that might be on the test.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I can explain to another student how to solve all the types of problems that may appear on the test.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I always study well enough not just to pass or to get in the 70s or 80s, but to get close to 100%.	1	2	3	4	5
8. For each type of potential problem, I can describe the typical errors a student might make in solving such a problem.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I study <i>all</i> possible topics that I might be tested on, even if I believe that the teacher is unlikely to include such topics on the test.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I can identify the types of problems I am faced with even when the problems are placed in random order.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Even though I attend class regularly, take complete notes, and do all the homework, I make an additional special effort to study for the test.	1	2	3	4	5
12. I obtain a collection of problems and questions that can serve as a practice test. I write answers to all problems on the practice test without looking at the solutions.	1	2	3	4	5
13. I usually know the material so well that I enjoy taking the test.	1	2	3	4	5

Scoring The Survey

Score each question based on the number you circled. For each of the three parts in the survey, find your total number of points and then refer to the appropriate point category.

I. Your Attitude and Approach in Mathematics Courses

- 22 or over:** You approach a mathematics course with a healthy attitude that tends to help you do well in the course. Your attitude and approach are not causing you problems.
- 18 to 21:** Your attitude does not greatly handicap you in a mathematics course, but you could definitely improve it.
- 17 or below:** It is very likely that your attitude has been a major handicap to your doing well in a mathematics course.

II. Classroom and homework habits

- 54 or over:** Your classwork and homework efforts are very good, and you do not need much improvement in this area.
- 40 to 53:** Your classwork and homework preparation are about average. You can definitely make improvements in your preparation that will help you in the course.
- 39 or below:** Your classwork and homework habits have been greatly handicapping you in mathematics classes. You need to make significant improvements in this preparation that will help you in the course.



III. Mathematics Test Preparation habits

- 60 or over:** Your test preparation habits may be excellent. If you have circled any number less than 5, however, look at that statement again for clues on how to improve these habits.
- 45 to 59:** Though you have no extreme test preparation problems, you can definitely improve your test preparation habits.
- 44 or below:** Your test preparation habits in mathematics courses can be greatly improved. It is likely that improvements in your classroom and homework habits may also help you to prepare for tests.

From: *Mastering Mathematics, How to Be a Great Math Student*, Richard Manning Smith, 2nd ed., Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1994.