

them practise their mental sums and timetables on these worksheets. Most importantly, they will be able to redo and correct the questions they got wrong in the first place.”

• Manage time better with mock exams

Ms Yan also recommends using mock exams as a good last-minute revision tool. She suggests: “Have your child complete a full paper within the stipulated time and see whether he or she is able to manage their time. After your child finishes the paper, ask him or her to check their work again and see if they can spot their own mistakes.”

• Check please!

It goes without saying that it is a must to check your answers at least once during the examinations. Not doing so or doing it haphazardly can cost precious marks.

Ms Buckley suggests cultivating the checking habit in your child. She says, “As the old adage goes, prevention is better than cure. So, whenever your child finishes their homework, make sure they check it before closing the book.”

Revision for Primary 1 & 2 Mathematics

Now that English is covered, what about mind-boggling Mathematics?

Basically, the lower primary Maths paper comprises of three sections. Section A contains ‘Multiple Choice Questions’. Section B consists of ‘Fill in the blanks’ questions. Lastly, Section C is ‘Problem Solving’.

• Work the worksheets

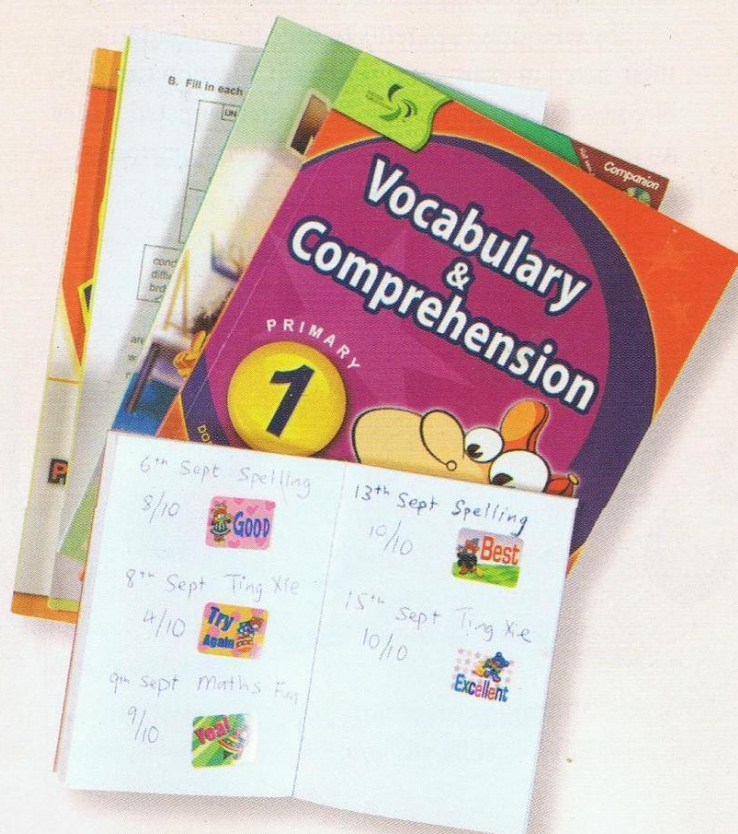
Ms Yan Ying Ling, head of department of Mathematics from Raffles Girls Primary School, advises parents to go through past worksheets with their child.

“This will help them familiarise themselves with the spelling of numbers and shapes”, she says. “It is also good to refresh their memory by having

• Cracking Section C

Mr Sunny Tan is a principle trainer from Maths Heuristics Pte Ltd and his mathematics enrichment centre specialises in Section C or Problem Solving found in the lower primary Maths paper.

He says, “Many parents try to teach their child mathematics computation but they face challenges in teaching them problem solving as they are not trained in this aspect. Thus, instead of teaching your child



Maths revision tips on the go

Now, you can revise with your child on the go with these quick tips from Ms Yan Ying Ling, head of department of Mathematics from Raffles Girls Primary School:

- ✓ When out supermarket shopping, get your kids to do mental calculations of the total cost.
- ✓ Do mental sums with your child in the car.
- ✓ Get your child to spell out the numbers they see on the street such as block units or signs.



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the steps or formula of the problem sum directly, try engaging them in the process of problem instead."

"For instance, guide your child to understand the problem sum first", he says. "Ask them to read the question to you and ask how they can solve this problem. If they are stuck, prompt them with hints like using a model or the methods they've learnt in school".

• Simple heuristics

Mr Tan also recommends introducing simple heuristics to lower primary children. If you're not familiar with heuristics, it is a problem solving tool which according to him, is "designed to help solve problems in unfamiliar topic areas".

He adds: "The objection of heuristics is about how we can identify and approach a problem and not merely rely on the standard procedures."

Hence, in instances such as when your child forgets a certain Maths formula or is stumped by a problem sum, he or she can still apply simple heuristics as an alternative formula. It is therefore

useful to teach your kids heuristics at the 11th hour as they still have something to fall back on if they cannot finish their Maths revision in time.

Mr Tan tells us more about two heuristics strategies which are effective for the lower Primary level. He explains: "A common example for the first strategy, 'Act it Out' is to do arithmetic with their fingers. Another is to draw diagrams or models to transform the problem sum into visual representations so that the child can relate to it better."

With so many useful tips to pick up for both English and Maths exams here, we're sure you'll be busy rolling out many last-minute revisions for your little scholar. However, be sure the kids are well-rested and well-nourished before their big day, and that they receive lots of hugs and encouraging words from you.

See to it that your young one has at least six to eight hours of sleep on the night before so that in the morning, he or she will be raring to go! **SC**