

DR. E. P. SCARLETT MATH FAQ FOR NEW STUDENTS

Don't see your question or need more information? Please contact the math Learning Leader, Jon Pencoff: jjpencoff@cbe.ab.ca

MATH 15 FAQ:

1) What is Math 15, where does it fit in?

Math 15 is a course that is designed to help smooth out your transition into Math 10C. Despite the higher number, "15", it is actually a course that you would take before math 10C as preparation for Math 10C. In this course, we will help you strengthen your existing math skills as well as introducing you to topics that will help you be successful in math 10C.

2) How do I know if I should take Math 15 before Math 10C?

Generally, if you found there were topics in grade 9 math where you experienced minimal success and you often struggled with topics involving Algebra, (Such as: Solving equations, working with polynomials and exponents) then you are a good candidate for Math 15. There is no risk to taking it, even the strongest students that take math 15 who might have been fine to enter Math 10C directly find the course highly beneficial and it makes the move into 10C much easier. We recommend you have a discussion with your grade 9 math teacher about your current skill level and where they believe you will find the most success. In general, using the CBE grade 9 assessment scale, we find that students with mostly 2's in math struggle greatly in math 10C and have the greatest chance of success by taking Math 15 first semester, followed by Math 10C in the second semester.

3) Is Math 15 offered in French?

Unfortunately, we do not yet have enough French Immersion students requesting math 15 to offer a full class. However, many of our French math students take Math 15 in English in order to strengthen skills prior to taking Math 10C in French. This does not in anyway change the status of their French Immersion Certificate.

MATH 10C FAQ:

1) What is Math 10C ?

Math 10 "Common" or sometimes called Math 10 "Combined" is the grade 10 math course that the majority of grade 9 students will enter as their next step. It is a 5 credit course that occurs in either the first or second semester depending on a student's timetable.

2) What is the homework expectation for Math 10C ?

Since high school operates on a semester system, you will only have 4 classes per day, which results in longer periods so naturally we will cover a significant amount of material each class.

You should expect to be assigned some homework practice almost every day. But don't worry, you will usually also have a significant amount of work time given in class. It varies greatly depending on the student, but you should expect about 45 minutes of homework practice per day as an average. This practice is vital, and you should be very diligent about its completion.

3) How do the marks work, are there lots of exams?

In high school, marks are earned as a percentage. In math 10C, you will write 5 unit exams, 2 cumulative exams as well as a final exam. These summative assessments are very important but you will be provided with many opportunities during class to be sure you are ready for these exams. Assignments, quizzes, and class activities are designed to make sure you "know your stuff" before the exam. You will receive marks for assignments, quizzes, and exams.

4) If I improve, can I make up for a mark that I am not happy with?

Yes, we offer opportunities for you to show that you have improved your understanding on previous concepts. We want you to have a mark that reflects your most current level of success with the material. To be clear, no, you cannot just repeat any assessment or have "re-do's" all the time, but we will offer new assessments at a set time on the same material as the course progresses. A higher mark on these new assessments will replace the old mark.

5) What kind of help I can get if I don't understand something?

We offer a math help room every morning Monday to Thursday and all teachers are available for set tutorial times. Of course, we also encourage you to always ask many questions in class. The longer periods often have ample time for students to have many questions answered. Be sure to talk to your teacher right away if you need help!

MATH 10-3 FAQ:

1) What is the math dash 3 program?

The math dash 3 program is designed for students who struggled with the outcomes of grade 9 math. Completion of Math 10-3 and Math 20-3 meets the math requirement for high school graduation. The dash 3 program leads to programs in trades or apprenticeships or allows a student to directly enter the work force.

AP MATHEMATICS AT SCARLETT FAQ:

1) How do I know if I should take AP mathematics?

Do you enjoy mathematics? Does it really bug you if you can't figure out the answer and you want to know "why" it works? Is your grade 9 teacher suggesting you take AP? Generally, if you excel in your grade 9 math program, and math intrigues you, then you should definitely consider giving AP math a try.

2) Is it better to have good grades in 10C or bad grades in AP Math?

This question actually comes from a “myth” about AP. Being in AP, your mark will not actually be any lower than if you were taking the regular class. Your report card marks are based on the Alberta Education Standards. Students in AP will actually write the same exams/assessments as the students in the regular program. So despite the extra material, and the challenge we will offer you, your mark will actually be the same as if you stayed in regular Math 10C.

3) Can I move out of AP back to regular Math?

Yes, if you decide that the enrichment of the AP class is not for you, then you can absolutely choose to switch to the regular stream in the next grade. We see grade 10 as a trial year, a chance for you to see what AP math is all about.

4) Does AP Math open more doors regarding post-secondary studies ?

If you complete AP math and successfully write the AP exam at the end of AP Calculus, then you could receive credit for your first semester of Calculus at your chosen post-secondary institution. Even if you do not write the AP exam, many post-secondary schools often ask if you took any AP classes, as they see it as a plus that you chose a more challenging stream in high school.

5) Is there AP mathematics in French?

No, unfortunately there are so far not enough French immersion students requesting AP math to offer a full program. Students often have to make the tough decision between continuing in a full French immersion program or entering the AP program. There are still some options regarding earning a partial French immersion certificate. To get more details, we encourage you to contact our French Immersion Learning Leader.

OTHER GENERAL MATH FAQ

1) What are the math courses you can take coming from Grade 9 and entering Grade 10?

In grade 10, there is Math 10-3, Math 15, Math 10C, Math 10pre-AP, and the Math 10-4 K & E program. You should speak to your grade 9 math teacher about which course is best for you as your next step. Generally, Math 10-3 is for students that struggled in grade 9 mathematics and may not have successfully met the outcomes of math 9. Math 15 is for students who successfully completed math 9 but also struggled with many of the concepts. Math 10C is for students that successfully completed the outcomes of math 9. Math 10pre-AP is for students that excel in mathematics and have a strong interest in mathematics. Math 10-4 K & E is the knowledge and employability program that is offered by recommendation only. Please note that there is more detailed information about some of the courses in the other sections of this FAQ page.

2) What comes after grade 10 math?

If you were recommended for math 10-3, then the usual progression is to move into math 20-3 in grade 11.

If you were recommended for math 10C, then you will move into either Math 20-2 or Math 20-1 in grade 11 depending on your level of success. Your math 10C teacher will make a recommendation as to which course you should take next. As a general guideline, students with a mark of 50% to 70% in 10C will move to Math 20-2, while students over 70% in 10C will move to Math 20-1.

3) After Grade 10, what is the difference between “dash 1” math and “dash 2” math?

Both dash 1 and dash 2 math lead to college and university. It just depends on what you are hoping to pursue at the post-secondary level. Math 20-1 and 30-1 are designated as pre-calculus. That is, they lead to studying Calculus and then programs that continue to study mathematics at the post-secondary level. Dash 2 is called Foundations, it is appropriate for students who will not be requiring Calculus and advanced mathematics will not be a significant part of their college or university program. It is best to check the admissions requirements for individual programs to determine which course is required.

4) What kind of help I can get if I don't understand something?

We offer a math help room every morning Monday to Thursday and all teachers are available for set tutorial times. Of course, we also encourage you to always ask many questions in class. The longer periods often have ample time for students to have many questions answered. Be sure to talk to your teacher right away if you need help!

5) Is math really tough in High School? I heard it can be difficult and I'm anxious about being successful.

Students entering high school can be at very different levels in their math journey. This is why it is so important that you speak with your junior high teacher to determine the next best step for you in mathematics. At high school, we have three different streams, four if you count AP, that provide students with the option of choosing a course that is suitable for your current abilities in mathematics. We hope that you will of course still find a challenge, this is important, as math is like “weightlifting for your brain”. However, with a regular study routine, asking for help, and being diligent with all your work, I assure you that your chances of success are very high!