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PSLE MATHEMATICS SUMMARY SHEET




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| Mathematical Heuristics |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Heuristic \#1: Use a Diagram/Model | Step 1: Draw a diagram/model to represent given information <br> Step 2: Use diagram/model to obtain further information <br> Step 3: Solve problem using new information from diagram/model | Heuristic \#8: Restate the Problem <br> Eg: The shop has 2 more tables than sofas. $\rightarrow$ If we add two more sofas, the number of tables and sofas will be the same | Step 1: Rephrase/paraphrase the problem in another way <br> Step 2: Modify the criteria (eg: total number) accordingly <br> Step 3: Solve the problem with the modified criteria |
| Heuristic \#2: Guess-and-Check | Step 1: Obtain key information from problem <br> Step 2: Construct a table for Guess-and-Check <br> Step 3: Stop when criteria from problem is met <br> Step 4: Conclude | Heuristic \#9: Simplify the Problem | Step 1: Modify the Diagram/Simplify the Problem Step 2: Solve the simplified problem |
| Heuristic \#3: Make a Systematic List | Step 1: Narrow down Options <br> Step 2: List down all possibilities <br> Step 3: Conclude | Heuristic \#10: Solve Part of the Problem Eg: The area of a square is $16 \mathrm{~cm}^{2}$, find its perimeter. $\rightarrow$ First find the length and then use it to find the perimeter. | Step 1: Obtain information from the given problem Step 2: Use new information obtained to solve the rest of the question |
|  | Step 1: Search for a Pattern <br> Step 2: Use pattern to predict subsequent figures | Heuristic \#11: Think of a Related | Step 1: Recall a similar/related problem <br> Step 2: Recall the method used to solve the <br> similar/related problem <br> Step 3: Modify the approach to solve the given problem |
| Heuristic \#5: Work Backwards | Step 1: Start from the result/the final value Step 2: Work backwards by adding instead of subtracting, multiplying instead of dividing and vice versa | Heuristic \#12: Use Equations <br> Eg: There are twice as many sandals as shoes and there are a total of 30 shoes and sandals. $\rightarrow$ Let $x$ be the number of shoes. <br> Number of sandals $=2 x$ and $2 x+x=30$. | Step 1: Represent given information using Algebraic terms and assigning variables <br> Step 2: Form equations using given information <br> Step 3: Solve the equations to solve the problem |
| Heuristic \#6: Use Before-and-After <br> Concept ```Step 1: Before Jamie : Krishna : Total Step 2: After Jamic : Krishna : Total \(2: 1: 3\)``` | Step 1: Compare values before and after a change <br> Step 2: Look out for any quantity that remains the same <br> Step 3: Solve the Problem | Heuristic \#13: Spatial Visualisation <br> Observe that by drawing some lines to the octagon, we can split it into triangles. the octagon | Step 1: Draw/modify Diagrams to link to existing knowledge <br> Step 2: Use New/Modified Diagrams to solve the problem |
| Heuristic \#7: Make Suppositions | Step 1: Make a Supposition <br> Step 2: Find Big Difference <br> Step 3: Find Small Difference <br> Step 4: Big Difference - Small Difference | Heuristic \#14: Act It Out* <br> *Not applicable during exams | Step 1: Physically act out what is taking place in a word problem <br> Step 2: Understand the question better through acting |

