

The Didactics of Mathematics

RESEARCH QUESTION 1

List the **2 main factors** that you feel are **helping** you achieve good practice in the **preparation** and **delivery** of your mathematics lesson.

Strengths

- The Abacus Maths Scheme
- A good Resource Bank (including Software)
- Use of I.C.T.
- A Good Scheme of Work
- Detailed Lesson Plans

Strengths

- The Internet
- Differentiation
- Teaching Experience
- Ideas from various Maths Books
- Teamwork
- Knowing pupils' ability and building on it
- Clear guidelines and support from the Curriculum Dept
- Teaching the same class improves lesson preparation
- Clear learning objectives
- Hands-on Activities
- The syllabus
- Integrating subjects

Strengths

- Flexibility
- Sequence in text-book
- Mental and Oral tests
- Revision
- Teacher Training
- Summer INSET course
- Use of past exam papers
- Good class management
- Teaching through real-life situations

Implications

- Teachers are appreciating the support from
 - the new Maths scheme
 - the Curriculum Department
- Clear distinction between classes using the new Maths scheme and those still using Basic Maths
- Awareness of the need for forward planning
- I.C.T. not given its rightful place

RESEARCH QUESTION 2

List the **2 main factors** that you feel are **hindering** you achieve good practice in the **preparation** and **delivery** of your mathematics lesson.

Weaknesses

- Lack of resources
- Insufficient time for preparation and planning with colleagues
- Catering for different levels of ability
- Vast syllabus

Weaknesses

- Lack of space for practical activities
- Basic Maths Book too limited
- Lack of software
- Lack of funds for resources
- Weak foundation in subject from previous years
- Need for more training in I.C.T.
- Too rigid planning in ABACUS
- Language problem

Weaknesses

- Absenteeism
- Weak planning
- Lack of experience
- Stressful workplace
- Insufficient recorded information
- Large number of children in class
- Wide age-range within same class
- Too many corrections to take home

Implications

- Lack of time
- Language problem
- Lack of funds for purchase of resources
- Lack of space for hands-on activities
- Stress due to pressure of work

Workshops

1. Using Computers to Facilitate Mathematical Learning
2. The Primary Mathematics Syllabus
3. Resources for Teaching & Learning Mathematics
4. The Function of Different Teaching Approaches
5. Teaching Mathematics through English or Maltese

MATHS



National Conference
The Teaching and Learning of Mathematics in Malta
Today and Tomorrow

**Multiplication is vexation,
Division is as bad;
The Rule of Three doth puzzle me,
And Practice drives me mad.**

Anonymous