

**Q & A from the Elementary 6 Math Exam Sessions
- May 2022 and April 2023 -**

1. How do we know where and when to use the calculator?

- a. **Students are allowed to use the calculator during the situational problem ONLY.** It is important that students write down their steps and write down their calculations. Students must show their reasoning and how they got the answer. **Teacher tip:** Go through the problem as if you didn't have a calculator and write down all of your steps, and then go back and use the calculator to check those answers. Otherwise, there should be no need for the calculator unless it is identified on the student's IEP.

2. What is allowed on the memory aid? Are there rules for the memory aid? Is there anything the students cannot write on their memory aid?

- a. The memory aid is also only allowed during the situational problem and should include memory joggers for you, and important formulas that you need help remembering. Don't take up the space to write an entire example. It has to be clear and concise. Practice with it so that you know where things are on the page.
I think putting keywords, key formulas and little drawings is helpful. I would definitely suggest putting the 3 big formulas: perimeter, area and volume on it in order to remember the difference between those.

3. Do you have examples of a memory aid?

- a. Memory aids are unique to each student and what jogs your memory. **Tip:** Take the 8 ½ x 11 paper and fold it into different sections. This is a good place to start to get a sense of how much space you have for each section.

4. Do you have an example test to show us... just so we can see the format of the different days of the exam?

- a. In the exam preparation video on the LEARN site (<https://www.learnquebec.ca/en/examprep>), you are walked through the different days and parts of the exam including some example questions.

5. What happens if they don't pass the exam? How do we know the exam grade?

- a. Please address any questions specific to grades with your school/school board contact.

6. Are students required to bring their own materials to use during the exam?

- a. Yes - it is the student's responsibility to bring **ALL** their own materials to use such as a pencil, highlighter, calculator, ruler etc...If a student requires manipulatives during the exam, please reach out to your school board directly to see if they will be provided to the student.

7. What type of manipulatives could be useful?

- a. An example would be something like bingo chips or manipulatives that can help students count out or represent the numbers for them.

- 8. Can only the student see an example of the authorized exam, or can the parent also see it?**
- The student is authorized to see the exam. Please contact your school board for more information.
- 9. On the day of the big situational problem, how soon can I leave if I feel done?**
- The best answer to this question is that you can leave when the supervising teacher allows you to. The teacher will verify that all parts of the exam have been completed. Take your time, and reread and go back over the reference document, and make some notes, check your math, verify everything. Don't race to get out of there. Take your time!
- 10. Do you have tips for solving the situational problem?**
- The first time the examiner reads the problem, it is important to just listen and not start solving. Students should then reread the problem and highlight important information, write down important notes and cross off any information that is irrelevant to solving the problem. Students should also write down the operation(s) needed to solve the problem. It is then suggested that students solve the problem step-by-step and write down all their calculations. As a final step, students are encouraged to label their work as this will be helpful to the examiner when marking.
- 11. In the mental math section, what types of operations can students be asked to solve?**
- Students can be asked to solve any operation that can be done without the use of a pencil and paper. It is suggested that students review the main operations; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division using mental math strategies.
- 12. What is the best way to help students prepare at home?**
- Daily review is very helpful. Take time to look at the [Progression of Learning](#) to understand the list of concepts that may be on the exam.
- 13. Will content focus on the [Priority of Learning](#) for the 2022-2023 School Year?**
- Yes! In 2023, the compulsory examination is also based on the [Learning to Be Prioritized at the Elementary Level for the 2021-2022 School Year in the Context of the Pandemic](#).
- 14. Do you think the exam will be really hard?**
- Prepare and practice ahead of the exam and become comfortable with the concepts mentioned above, take a deep breath and do your best :)
- 15. How many questions are on the exam?**
- The number of questions changes every year depending on the length of the questions. Students will have enough time to complete the questions in the time given to write the exam.
- 16. Can the student have multiplication tables copied on their memory aid?**

- a. Only put the multiplication that the student is having a hard time memorizing. Putting the full table of 1 - 12 multiplication would take up a lot of space if the child doesn't need all.

17. Can a memory aid be a notebook?

- a. No. The memory aid must be one 8½ × 11 sheet of paper, hand-written, both sides of which may be used.

18. Are we allowed to bring something that keeps us calm? Are fidget toys allowed or are they too noisy?

- a. Please ask the teacher who will be supervising you for the exam.

19. Is Ms. Ko's walk-through of the exam on the learnquebec.ca/examprep site?

- a. Yes! She has answered the practice questions in detail and walks us through the steps while providing some tips.

20. How long are the exams?

- a. Exam timetable:

Day 1:	2 Situations Involving Applications	30 minutes for EACH of the two problems PLUS students may be given approximately 15 additional minutes for EACH situation involving applications to allow them to finish solving them.
Day 2:	Situational Problem	2 hours PLUS students may be given approximately 30 additional minutes to allow them to finish solving the problem.
Day 3:	1 Situation Involving Applications Question Booklet (mathematical concepts & processes)	1 hour PLUS approximately 15 additional minutes to allow them to complete each part of the Question Booklet.

21. Final tips from the teacher:

- a. Write everything down. Draw a picture. Label, label, label your work! Teachers want to be able to follow the student's train of thought. Teachers cannot guess at the student's reasoning so it has to be written on the paper. Also, don't stay stuck on any one problem especially in the multiple choice section. Move on and come back later. Using different coloured highlighters is also a great strategy. Use the first colour to highlight what you know and the second one to highlight what you're looking for.

22. What if the student doesn't understand a certain word on the exam?

- a. The examiner is allowed to explain any non-mathematical terminology.