GCSE MATHS · SOLVING LINEAR EQUATIONS

Blurt it

Step 1

Name _____ **Date** _____

1. Cover your notes and put your phone face down.
2. Set a timer for 5 minutes.
3. Write down everything you remember about solving linear equations: methods, key words, examples, and mistakes to avoid. Diagrams count too.

Stuck? Start with one of these: inverse operation · balance · expand

When the timer ends, turn over and check what you remembered.

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Check it, fix it, space it

Steps 2, 3 and 4

Check it

Tick each idea you wrote down, even in your own words.

- [ ] The = sign means both sides are equal in value: whatever you do to one side, do to the other
- [ ] Solve by using inverse operations to undo what has been done to x
- [ ] Solve one-step and two-step equations, undoing the steps in reverse order
- [ ] Expand any brackets first, then solve
- [ ] Unknown on both sides: collect the x terms on one side and the numbers on the other
- [ ] A fraction of x: multiply both sides by the denominator to clear the fraction
- [ ] Form an equation from a worded description, then solve it
- [ ] Check your answer by substituting it back into the original equation
- [ ] Rearrange a formula to change its subject, using inverse operations in the same way
- [ ] Avoid sign slips: a negative outside a bracket multiplies every term inside
- [ ] Divide the whole of each side by the coefficient, not just part of it
- [ ] Do not stop at a multiple of x: finish by finding x itself

Higher only

- [ ] Solve equations that combine brackets and fractions
- [ ] Unknown in a denominator: multiply both sides by that denominator first
- [ ] Set up an equation from a harder context, such as perimeter, angles or rates, then solve it

Key words to use: equation · unknown · term · coefficient · expand · bracket · solve · substitute · inverse operation · balance

I remembered _____ out of 12. **Higher only: _____ out of 3.**

Fix it

Pick 3 ideas you missed. Look them up, then write each one correctly.

1

2

3

Space it

Blurt again on a fresh sheet. Gaps help you remember for longer.

Tomorrow
Date _____
Score _____ / 12
Higher only _____ / 3

In 3 days
Date _____
Score _____ / 12
Higher only _____ / 3

In a week
Date _____
Score _____ / 12
Higher only _____ / 3

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