

Ideas to improve PRESENTATION

1. Don't scribble out mistakes, BOX-AND-CROSS instead:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x + 3 = 9 \\
 \cancel{x = 9 + 3} \\
 \cancel{x = 12} \\
 x = 9 - 3 \\
 x = 2
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x + 3 = 9 \\
 \boxed{\begin{array}{l} x = 9 + 3 \\ x = 12 \end{array}} \\
 x = 9 - 3 \\
 x = 6
 \end{array}$$

2. When SIMPLIFYING, EXPANDING or FACTORISING, make a chain of steps with an equals sign at the start of each line:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 2(a + b) + 3(a - b) \\
 2a + 2b + 3a - 3b \\
 5a - b
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 2(a + b) + 3(a - b) \\
 = 2a + 2b + 3a - 3b \\
 = 5a - b
 \end{array}$$

3. When SOLVING EQUATIONS, each step has an equals sign roughly in the middle:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x + 3 = 5 \\
 = x = 5 - 3 \\
 = x = 2
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x + 3 = 5 \\
 x = 5 - 3 \\
 x = 2
 \end{array}$$

4. Don't mix the main calculation with SIDE WORKINGS (if needed, make a margin):

$$\begin{array}{l}
 6(x + 17) \\
 \quad \quad \quad \frac{\times 6}{102} \\
 = 6x + 102
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 6(x + 17) \\
 = 6x + 102
 \end{array}
 \quad \begin{array}{l}
 17 \\
 \times 6 \\
 102
 \end{array}$$

5. Write x as CURLY, to avoid mix ups with times signs:

$$6bxx492z+t$$

$$6\text{b}x \times 492z + t$$

6. Avoid FRACTIONS with sloping lines (better to write fractions over two lines):

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x/2 + x/3 \\
 = 3x/6 + 2x/6 = 5x/6
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \frac{x}{2} + \frac{x}{3} \\
 \hline
 = \frac{3x}{6} + \frac{2x}{6} = \frac{5x}{6}
 \end{array}$$

7. Make your FINAL ANSWER stand out. Check it is in right form with the right units, then underline or circle it:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 A = \text{length} \times \text{width} \\
 A = 5 \times 5 = 25
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 A = \text{length} \times \text{width} \\
 A = 5 \times 5 = 25 \text{ cm}^2 \underline{\underline{\quad}}
 \end{array}$$