

CALCULATORS IN MATHEMATICS

A number of pupils and parents have asked for advice regarding the purchase and use of calculators.

In Qatar International School we work to the English Curriculum Key Stage 3 Mathematics in Years 7, 8 and 9, and IGCSE Syllabus in Years 10 and 11. These courses require pupils to be proficient in arithmetic, both with and without calculators as soon as possible so that they may practice using it to gain proficiency.

Year 7 concentrates on the rules of arithmetic. Most of the questions can be answered without a calculator, so they are used infrequently. Class teachers will tell their pupils when they should use a calculator.

From the start of Year 8 all pupils will be expected to

- have their own calculator
- bring it to every Mathematics lesson
- learn to use it efficiently

(There are some lessons where calculators are not permitted)

In Year 9 all pupils sit the QCA Mathematics SAT's examination. There are two papers; in Paper 1 calculators are not permitted and in Paper 2 calculators are allowed.

In Years 10 and 11 IGCSE and Year 12 AS Examinations pupils must have 'acceptable' calculators. The Examinations Board specifies functions that are required, and those that are NOT permitted. The examinations invigilator will check every calculator to make sure it complies with the Examination Board Rules. **ANY CALCULATOR WHICH DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE EXAMINATION BOARD RULES WILL BE TAKEN FROM THE CANDIDATE AND ONLY RETURNED AFTER THE EXAMINATION IS FINISH.**

The Mathematics Department thank you for your cooperation in this matter.