

Setting up the use of the **mathsqquad** homework helper and awesomeness tracker

Intro:

Basically, the Homework Helper is a summary book that contains examples and information about how to do each skill and the Awesomeness Tracker is made up of some sheets at the back of this book that give students space to document their progress once they have their homework sheet corrected.

Possible approach:

1. Download the Homework Helper (found in the homework bundle at www.mathsqquad.org/all-files)
2. Print out Homework Helper
3. Print out one per student (recommend: printing in colour, on green A3 paper and folding into an A4 booklet)
4. Explain to students how the information within the booklet is structured and also that there is space in towards the end for their own notes.
5. The Awesomeness tracker can be used once students have access to their corrected homework sheet. They fill in the Awesomeness Tracker using a highlighter as shown in the example below. The Awesomeness Tracker can be completed weekly or every few weeks by filling in data from multiple sheets at one time.

Skill tracker semester I

Skill #	Book 1										Book 2										Found. Pre-test	Foundation Progress Tests				Skill #	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		1	2	3	4		
01	■	■	■	■																	■					01	
02	■	■	■	■																		■					02
03	■	■	■	■																		■					03
04	■	■	■	■																		■					04
05	■	■	■	■																		■					05
06	■	■	■	■																		■					06
07	■	■	■	■																		■					07
08	■	■	■	■																		■					08
09	■	■	■	■																		■					09
10	■	■	■	■																		■					10
11	■	■	■	■																		■					11
12	■	■	■	■																		■					12
13	■	■	■	■																		■					13
14	■	■	■	■																		■					14
15	■	■	■	■																		■					15
16	■	■	■	■																		■					16
17	■	■	■	■																		■					17
18	■	■	■	■																		■					18
19	■	■	■	■																		■					19
20	■	■	■	■																		■					20
21	■	■	■	■																		■					21
22	■	■	■	■																		■					22
23	■	■	■	■																		■					23
24	■	■	■	■																		■					24
25	■	■	■	■																		■					25
26	■	■	■	■																		■					26
27	■	■	■	■																		■					27
28	■	■	■	■																		■					28
29	■	■	■	■																		■					29
30	■	■	■	■																		■					30
31	■	■	■	■																		■					31

Benefits:

Homework Helper: Being able to read information and apply information is a good skill for students to have. This booklet gives students the opportunity to develop this skill. In addition to this, the booklet is likely to help students build their skills in an efficient way.

In VCE students also have the opportunity to use a summary book and being provided with an exemplary summary book and using the Homework Helper in Year 7 helps them transition towards being able to create their own in the future.

Awesomeness Tracker: By using the Awesomeness Tracker students have access to a visual representation of their progress and this acts as an excellent motivator for students to put effort into their learning. The visual representation of what skills are known and what skills need work is also helpful for students and teachers and becomes more valuable once multiple sheets have been recorded and patterns can be seen. Use of the Awesomeness Tracker is also really valuable if there is a regular lesson where students are able to guide their own learning as students can see where their gaps are and make informed choices as to what skill they wish to focus on.

Costs:

While the Homework Helper is an excellent learning tool, it is not beneficial for students to develop a dependence on this resource. Reason being, it is time consuming for students to continually look up information and it is much

more desirable for long term learning and future skill acquisition if they instead retrieve information from their memories.

When it comes to assessments I would encourage students operating at approximately 80% or more to not use the Homework Helper during assessments. Students working at the Core Plus level should not be using the Homework Helper in assessments.

The cost of using the Awesomeness Tracker is that it does take time. I would also recommend not introducing the Awesomeness Tracker until Book 1A is complete as students will learn how to use the Awesomeness Tracker more easily if filling in more than one sheet at a time.