EXAMS
Junior Certificate
Mathematics

It is not necessary to carry out all the activities contained in this unit.

Theme	Exams: Mathematics	
Level	**A1 – B1**	
Language focus	Key vocabulary for exam questions, capitalisation, recognising different fonts/sizes	
Learning focus	Understanding the instructions on an exam paper, reading questions for detail	
CONTENTS		
Section	**Exercise number/name**	**Page number**
A. Understanding the language of questions	1 - 4	**3,4**
Answer Key		**5**

Keywords

The keywords which are found in Mathematics exam papers are as follows:

Instructions
calculate
find
estimate
solve
prove
evaluate
express
simplify
construct
measure
factorise
hence

Shape and position
midpoint
equiangular
triangle
angles
rectangular
opposite
higher
sphere
hexagon
quadrilateral
circle
angle
perpendicular
congruent
arc
tangent
intersects /
intersection
point
internal
nearest

line

Measurement and calculation
cm
metres
maximum
mins
length
rate
equal
cost
sum
breadth

Mathematical terms
value
equation
decimal
theorem
subsets
fraction
coordinates
number
slope
slant
histogram
cumulative
rounding
function
surd
elevation
interval
transformation
simultaneous
band

Other terms
students
athletes
goals
container
journey
hours
duration
invested
per annum
tax credits
capsule
diagram
calculator
correct
shown
scored
otherwise
obtained
attempted
places
represent
appropriately
bales
amounted
sample
agent
carries
travelled
domain
prize
table
visited

SECTION A   Understanding the language of questions

You must read exam questions very carefully. Here are some typical instructions from Mathematics exam questions. Read the text carefully and do the activities. If you are not sure about any words, check them in your dictionary and make a note of them in your own language.

You must attempt all 6 questions

1   Tick (√) the correct answer:

a	You must choose 6 questions	☐
b	You should try to do all the questions	☐
c	You are only allowed to do 6 questions	☐

Each question is worth 50 marks.
Each question has three sections.

2   Read these two statements and answer the following questions:

a) How many parts are there in each question? _____

b) How many marks can you get for answering
<u>all</u> the parts correctly?   _____

3   What do the following words and phrases mean? Where do you usually find them on the paper?

a	express your answer		
b	give your answer correct to (one) (two) decimal places		
c	simplify		
d	without the use of a calculator		
e	construct		
f	calculate		
g	solve (the equation)		

h	factorise		
i	verify		
j	prove		
k	plot		
l	estimate		
m	evaluate		
n	given		
o	represent the information		

4   Write the opposites of the words below:

Word	Opposite
equal	
top	
negative	
lowest	
increase	
maximum	

Answer Key

Page 3

1   b

2   a) 3

     b) 50

3

a	express your answer	Write your answer in a particular form.	Algebra
b	give your answer correct to (one) (two) decimal places	Your answer must only use (one) (two) numbers after the decimal.	Arithmetic Algebra Geometry
c	simplify	Write the equation so that brackets are not used.	Arithmetic Algebra
d	without the use of a calculator	Do not use your calculator.	Arithmetic
e	construct	Draw (using instruments)	Geometry
f	calculate	Work out the value	Algebra
g	solve (the equation)	Find the value of the letter(s)	Algebra
h	factorise	Find the factors	Algebra
i	verify	Confirm	Algebra
j	prove	Show that this is correct.	Geometry
k	plot	Put some points that are given to you in the correct place on a graph.	Graphs
l	estimate	Read answers from a graph	Graphs
m	evaluate	Simplify and find the value of an expression.	Arithmetic Algebra
n	given	Information that is already on the paper so that you can do the question.	Geometry Algebra
o	represent the information	Work our the information and put it into a Venn diagram.	Sets

Page 4
4

Word	Opposite
equal	unequal
top	bottom
negative	positive
lowest	highest
increase	decrease
maximum	minimum