

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462168003321
Autore	Alcock Lara
Titolo	How to study for a mathematics degree [[electronic resource] /] / Lara Alcock
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford, : Oxford University Press, 2012
ISBN	1-283-71345-4 0-19-163736-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (289 p.)
Disciplina	510.711
Soggetti	Mathematics - Study and teaching (Higher) Mathematics - Vocational guidance Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Symbols; Introduction; Part 1 Mathematics; 1 Calculation Procedures; 1.1 Calculation at school and at university; 1.2 Decisions about and within procedures; 1.3 Learning from few (or no) examples; 1.4 Generating your own exercises; 1.5 Writing out calculations; 1.6 Checking for errors; 1.7 Mathematics is not just procedures; 2 Abstract Objects; 2.1 Numbers as abstract objects; 2.2 Functions as abstract objects; 2.3 What kind of object is that, really?; 2.4 Objects as the results of procedures; 2.5 Hierarchical organization of objects; 2.6 Turning processes into objects 2.7 New objects: relations and binary operations 2.8 New objects: symmetries; 3 Definitions; 3.1 Axioms, definitions and theorems; 3.2 What are axioms?; 3.3 What are definitions?; 3.4 What are theorems?; 3.5 Understanding definitions: even numbers; 3.6 Understanding definitions: increasing functions; 3.7 Understanding definitions: commutativity; 3.8 Understanding definitions: open sets; 3.9 Understanding definitions: limits; 3.10 Definitions and intuition; 4 Theorems; 4.1 Theorems and logical necessity; 4.2 A simple theorem about integers; 4.3 A theorem about functions and derivatives 4.4 A theorem with less familiar objects 4.5 Logical language: 'if '; 4.6 Logical language: everyday uses of 'if '; 4.7 Logical language: quantifiers; 4.8 Logical language: multiple quantifiers; 4.9 Theorem

rephrasing; 4.10 Understanding: logical form and meaning; 5 Proof; 5.1 Proofs in school mathematics; 5.2 Proving that a definition is satisfied; 5.3 Proving general statements; 5.4 Proving general theorems using definitions; 5.5 Definitions and other representations; 5.6 Proofs, logical deductions and objects; 5.7 Proving obvious things 5.8 Believing counterintuitive things: the harmonic series 5.9 Believing counterintuitive things: Earth and rope; 5.10 Will my whole degree be proofs?; 6 Proof Types and Tricks; 6.1 General proving strategies; 6.2 Direct proof; 6.3 Proof by contradiction; 6.4 Proof by induction; 6.5 Uniqueness proofs; 6.6 Adding and subtracting the same thing; 6.7 Trying things out; 6.8 'I would never have thought of that'; 7 Reading Mathematics; 7.1 Independent reading; 7.2 Reading your lecture notes; 7.3 Reading for understanding; 7.4 Reading for synthesis; 7.5 Using summaries for revision 7.6 Reading for memory 7.7 Using diagrams for memory; 7.8 Reading proofs for memory; 8 Writing Mathematics; 8.1 Recognizing good writing; 8.2 Why should a student write well?; 8.3 Writing a clear argument; 8.4 Using notation correctly; 8.5 Arrows and brackets; 8.6 Exceptions and mistakes; 8.7 Separating out the task of writing; Part 2 Study Skills; 9 Lectures; 9.1 What are lectures like?; 9.2 What are lecturers like?; 9.3 Making lectures work for you; 9.4 Tackling common problems; 9.5 Learning in lectures; 9.6 Courtesy in lectures; 9.7 Feedback on lectures; 10 Other People 10.1 Lecturers as teachers

Sommario/riassunto

Every year, thousands of students go to university to study mathematics (single honours or combined with another subject). Many of these students are extremely intelligent and hardworking, but even the best will, at some point, struggle with the demands of making the transition to advanced mathematics. Some have difficulty adjusting to independent study and to learning from lectures. Other struggles, however, are more fundamental: the mathematics shifts in focus from calculation to proof, so students are expected to interact with it in different ways. These changes need not be mysterious - math
