

The Right Angle

Deanna Shostak

Learning and Teaching Resources Branch

Online Elementary Mathematics Resource (Grade 6) Now Available

As part of the new LearnAlberta.ca portal, Alberta Learning has developed an Online Elementary Mathematics Resource. This resource offers interactive lessons related to key mathematics concepts, a glossary of mathematical terms, printable parent notes and activity sheets, problem-solving strategies and number operations.

The Online Elementary Mathematics Resource directly relates to classroom learning and is designed to help students, parents and teachers in a variety of ways.

Teachers can use this mathematics resource to

- enhance lesson plans,
- illustrate concepts in class and
- assist students with extra review.

Students can use this mathematics resource to

- review what is learned in class,
- reinforce skills through extra practice and
- refer to examples that may help with assigned homework.

Parents can use this mathematics resource to

- gain a better understanding of what their child is learning in school and
- help their child at home.

The Online Elementary Mathematics Resource (Grade 6) is now available for use by parents, students and teachers free of charge through the website at www.learnalberta.ca/math. Students who do not have a computer at home may wish to visit a public library or another institution that offers public access to the Internet.

Grades 4 and 5 mathematics concept lessons are under development and are expected to be available in the fall 2002. Grades 1 to 3 lessons are targeted for availability in 2003 and 2004.

For more information about the Online Elementary Mathematics Resource, please contact Debbie Duvall, Project Manager, Learning and

Teaching Resources Branch, Alberta Learning at Debbie.Duvall@gov.ab.ca or phone (780) 422-3257.

Learner Assessment Branch

Diploma exams in Pure Mathematics 30, Applied Mathematics 30, Mathematics 30 (old) and Mathematics 33 will be available in both June and August. The diploma exams for both Pure and Applied Mathematics 30 will be released in June, but secured in August. All administrations of Mathematics 30 (old) and Mathematics 33 are secure. This means that the examinations will arrive in your school in sealed envelopes bearing the student's name, and no one other than the student writing the exam will see the contents of the envelope. Mathematics 30 (old) diploma exams are only available until August 2002, and Mathematics 33 diploma exams are available until August 2003. Mathematics 33 exams written during the 2002/03 school year will only be available to students who are repeating the course or who have been granted special permission. A request for special status must be made in writing to Raja Panwar, Director, Curriculum Branch, Alberta Learning, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton T5K 0L2.

The Applied Mathematics 30 diploma exam will be worth 20 percent this year, while the weighting of all the other math diploma exams will be worth 50 percent. For students who wrote a Pure Mathematics 30 diploma examination worth 20 percent and wish to upgrade their final grade by writing a diploma examination worth 50 percent, special blending rules will apply. Alberta Learning will calculate the student's final grade by taking the higher school awarded mark (SAM) and blending it with last year's diploma examination mark (DEM) (using an 80 percent, 20 percent blend) and also blending it with this year's diploma examination (using a 50 percent, 50 percent blend). The higher mark will appear on the student's transcript. The example below illustrates this new blending rule.

	June 2001 (20% diploma)	January 2002 (50% diploma)	January 2002 SAM with June 2001 DEM
School Awarded Mark	75%	78%	
Diploma Exam Mark	60%	64%	
Final Grade	72%	71%	74%

Although both marks in January 2002 were higher, the 50 percent blend results in a lower final grade for the student. Therefore, Alberta Learning will calculate this student's final grade by using the higher SAM (January 2002) and the June 2001 diploma exam (worth 20 percent). The student's results statement will contain the most current year's marks, but the best overall final grade (74 percent) will appear on the student's transcript.

If further clarification is required, please contact the math/science unit, Learner Assessment Branch, (780) 427-0010.

Calculator Policy

The list of approved calculators and instructions for clearing these calculators can be found at www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/testing/diploma/bulletins/default.asp. All science and mathematics diploma examinations, including Mathematics 30 (old) and Mathematics 33, require the use of a scientific calculator or graphing calculator approved by Alberta Learning. This list is updated annually. Please note that the TI-82 will be deleted from this list for the 2002/03 school year.

Information Bulletins

These bulletins provide students and teachers with information about diploma examinations for the 2002/03 school year. The bulletins for both Applied Mathematics 30 and Pure Mathematics 30 were reviewed by teachers across the province in the spring 2002 and recommendations were made to change some of the curriculum standards and example questions. These new bulletins can be downloaded from www.learning.gov.ab.ca/k_12/testing/diploma/bulletins/default.asp before September 2002.

The Learning Technologies Branch

The Learning Technologies Branch (LTB) is responsible for providing leadership and consultation in identifying, developing, implementing and evaluating effective distance learning strategies

and techniques in Alberta schools. Recently, LTB has developed a number of additional secondary and elementary mathematics resources.

Secondary Mathematics Resources

The following print resource for secondary mathematics has been developed by LTB and is available from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC):

- Applied Mathematics 20 Student Module Pack (2001) (Product #440868)

The following electronic resource has been developed by LTB and is available from LRC:

- Applied Mathematics 20 Multimedia Segments (CD-ROM v.1.0, Windows/Mac) (2001) (Product #460361)

LTB has also developed a resource called Tools for Teachers. Tools for Teachers is an LTB site that contains LTB distance learning materials linked to the Program of Studies objectives. Mathematics materials available are Mathematics 31, Pure Mathematics 10–30 and Applied Mathematics 10. Multimedia segments for Applied Mathematics 10 and 20 are available on Tools for Teachers. Also, Electronic Teachers' Guides for some recently completed courses are available for downloading from this site. The website address is www.tools4teachers.ab.ca and access information is given on the site.

LTB is currently developing print resources and multimedia segments for Applied Mathematics 30.

Elementary Mathematics Resources

The following print resources for elementary mathematics have been developed by LTB and are available from LRC:

- Mathematics 2 Student Pack (2001) (Product #456815)
- Mathematics 5 Student Pack (2001) (Product #442822)

LTB is currently developing print resources for Mathematics 3 and 6.

For more information, visit our website at www.learning.gov.ab.ca/lfb.