

Unit 2: Introduction to the Teaching of Mathematics



Meaning, Nature and Scope of Mathematics

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Learning Outcomes

This unit will focus on:
Meaning of Mathematics
Nature of Mathematics
Scope of Mathematics



Locke

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"Mathematics is a way to settle in the mind a habit of reasoning."



O Etymology:- The term "Mathematics" is derived from two Greek words:

Manthanein' means 'learning'
 'Techne' means 'an art (or)
 technique' Mathematics means the art
 of learning related to disciplines (or)
 facilities.



◎ It is a science of number and space O Has its own language in terms of signs, symbols, terms, operations etc. O Uses/ requires intuition, logic, reasoning, analysis, construction, generality and individuality.



O Helps in drawing conclusions and interpreting various ideas and themes.

It is suited for dealing with abstract concept of any kind.

 Helps to solve problems of daily life.
 Has an aesthetic value and helps to admire the beauty of nature



Mathematics relies both on logic and creativity

 Practical Purposes i.e. how mathematics applies to their work?
 Intrinsic Interests i.e. Essence of mathematics lies in its beauty and intellectual challenge.

J.B.Shaw

"Mathematics is engaged, in fact, in the profound study of art and the expression of beauty."



Mathematics is a systematized, organized and exact branch of science.

Mathematic deals with quantitative facts, relationships as well as with problems involving space and form.
 It is a logical study of shape, arrangement and quantity.



i. *Science of logical reasoning:* In mathematics the results are developed through a process of reasoning. Reasoning in mathematics possesses a number of characteristics such as,

O Simplicity

O Accuracy

O Certainty of Results

Originality

Verification / Conclusions follow naturally from the facts when logical reasoning is applied to the facts. (O)

Nature of Mathematics

- ii. Mathematical Language and Symbolism: It has its own unique language and symbols.
- Mathematical language and symbols cut down on lengthy statements. Helps in the expression of ideas and concepts in exact form.

It is free from verbosity, helps to point out clear and exact expression of facts. E.g —Writing (a-b) 2 = a2 - 2ab + b2 in words. Symbols which are peculiar and unique to mathematics.

iii Abstractness

Mathematics is abstract in the sense that it does not deal with actual objects in much the same way as physics. But, in fact mathematical questions as a rule, cannot be settles by direct appeal to experiment.



(iv) Mathematics deals with the art of drawing conclusions: To familiarise children with a mode of thought which helps them in drawing right conclusions and inferences. Hence, the learner can check whether (or) not he has drawn the correct conclusions, permit the learner to begin with simple and very easy conclusions, gradually move over to more difficult and complex ones.



 (v) Mathematics is a tool subject: Mathematics has its integrity, its beauty, its structure and many other features that relate to Mathematics as an end in it.



(vi) Mathematics is an intellectual game: Mathematics can be treated as an intellectual game with its own rules and abstract concepts, it is mainly a matter of Puzzles, paradoxes and problem solving

– a sort of healthy mental exercise.



(vii) Mathematics involves an intuitive method:
Intuition when applied to Mathematics involves the concretization of an idea not get stated in the form of some sort of operations (or) examples. Intuition is to anticipate what will happen next and what to do about it. It implies the act of grasping the meaning (or) significance (or) structure of a problem without explicit reliance on the analytic mode of thought.



(viii) Mathematics is the science of precision & accuracy: It is perhaps the only subject which can claim certainty of results. In Mathematics, the results are either right (or) wrong, accepted (or) rejected. There is no midway possible between rights and wrong. Mathematic can decide whether (or) not its conclusions are right.



(ix) Mathematics requires the application of rules and concept to new situations: The students can always verify the validity of mathematical rules and relationships by applying them to novel situations.



 \bigcirc (x) Mathematics deals with generalization and classification: Mathematics provides ample exercise in combining various results under one head, in making schematic arrangements and classifications. When the pupil evolves his own definitions, concept and theorems,

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 (xi)Mathematics is study of structures: A mathematical structure should be some sort of arrangement, formation (or) result of putting together of parts.



(xii) Mathematics is an abstract
 Science: Mathematical concepts are abstract in the sense that they cannot be seen (or) felt in the physical world.



Scope of Mathematics

Scope of Mathematics: Skills developed through Mathematics

O Critical Thinking

O Problem Solving

O Analytical Thinking

O Quantitative Reasoning

O Time management

 Logical Argument and Illogical Argument



Careers in Mathematics



