MATHS METHODS

JAMES MISTARZ RECEIVED A PERFECT VCE MATHS METHODS SCORE IN 2013.

My name is...
James Mistarz

I went to...
Vermont Secondary College

In VCE Maths Methods I received a score of...
50

This year (2014) I am doing...
Science

The best advice I can give VCE students about this exam is...
if you're sitting on a question too long because you're stuck, move on and get all the easier ones first. When you come back to that question later, you'll have a fresh perspective and probably be able to figure it out. But if you still can't figure it out, then go crazy attempting a bunch of different methods that you feel may be relevant to the question. Usually when you write something relevant down, you see things you couldn't see before and one thing leads to another and you've solved the problem. From my experience, I often never really knew where I was going when doing some of the harder questions, only until I started writing things down could I see what I needed to do. So I'd say don't try to solve the problem in your head before writing down any of the standard procedures that the question would probably expect you to do (for example start by differentiating something when you notice a question has something to do with rates) as its often really hard to figure out beforehand (in saying this, you should also think about a question for a bit before jumping in and assuming what they're asking you). You should also keep in mind that they only test you on things you've learnt throughout the year that are on the course, so if you think back to things relevant to each topic, and try out each method that could potentially get you somewhere, one of them must work. Even if you don't fully solve it, you'll probably get some method marks because you've scribbled down something productive. There's usually more than one correct method as well, so your chances are pretty good if you just keep persevering. Don't leave the question blank.

The best advice I got from my teacher about this exam was...
get into the head of the examiners, and notice that most of the hard questions they ask you are variations of questions that weren't answered so well in previous years. Usually you'll have seen 90% of the questions before, provided that you have done a reasonable amount of practise papers – they like to repeat questions. The other 10% are usually the ones that you haven't seen before because they've made them up especially for your year. These are generally more difficult, so it's probably a good idea to leave them until the end (or ignore them completely if you're not going for a super score in the subject) – use your time effectively on the more manageable questions.

In the month before this VCE exam, I...
no doubt studied as much as I could, but often overloading on study isn't the best way to go as you go crazy and don't think clearly. You should continue doing all the things you do – sports, leisure, work, family time, personal time, social things, reading, star gazing, whatever floats your boat. Even during exam time it is worthwhile to do these things.

In the week before this VCE exam I...
went through all the questions that were answered correctly by less than 50% of students in the exam reports, and made sure I fully understood how to answer questions of that type. Doing practice exams is also worthwhile.

On exam day, I prepared myself by...
waking up from a good night's sleep, going for the usual morning run, eating, brushing teeth, patting the dog.. it really is important to stay calm and not think about the exams too much.

After the exam, I....
enjoyed the moment.

The best exam advice I received from my parents, siblings or family member was...
relax. We love you no matter what.

I did work a part-time job during year 12 because...
it's one of the things that helps you maintain balance in your life.

For more tips like this and for advice about looking after yourself during vce exams, please visit
www.education.vic.gov.au/school/students/pages/vce.aspx

VICTORIA State Government | Education and Training