

Personal Development Assignment

Dear future MATH 1A students,

To help you increase the chances to succeed in this class, I list the following advices for you:

Recommendation

- **Keep up with your homework.** Practicing is extremely important when you do math, so you should do problems every day. You should start your homework right after the lecture, or even before the lecture day. Just knowing the example from lecture does not mean you know how to do it yourself. Therefore, you have to do your homework. Also, you can do problems faster by practicing more which will help a lot on the test and quiz.
- **Pay attention in class and take good notes.** You should attend class regularly. The lecture is clear and easily to understand, so it helps you to know the material much better, especially if you have something that you do not understand when you preview the section. The lecture also explains a lot of concepts beyond the sample problems, theorems and definitions. You will find that if you so the concepts, the problems become easier. This is because you cannot do problems just by memorizing the steps.
- **Do know how to simplify and factor.** Simplifying and factoring are the skills used through the whole quarter. A lot of problems can be simplified first, so instead of using quotient rule, use power rule which is way easier. When you do problems in chapter 4, like finding critical numbers, you have to know factor to get the answer. So simplifying and factoring can help you do many problems easier.
- **Organize your work.** When you do a problem that requires many steps, write neatly and clearly, so you so not make a mistake. For example, related rates, optimization problem and graph by hand. Also, it is always a good idea to organize your work when you do any problem, like when you need to factor a long equation.

Mistakes to avoid

- **Not read the problem carefully.** When I did my first midterm, I read the problem wrongly which hurts my grades. The problem says after t years and I read it as t years. It is just one word, but makes the whole problem differently. Rather than getting a straightforward number to solve, I get something like square root of 2004. So read the problem carefully, because even by one word can change the meaning. Or if you copy the number wrong, it also hurts your grade.
- **Get the wrong positive and negative signs.** You should avoid making mistake when you add and subtract. Once I do the graphing problem, I plug in x to get $f(x)$, but I forget the negative sign when subtract. As a result, though I get the shape of the function correct by first and second derivative test, when I put the points on the graph, they do not match at all. Therefore, it is important to get the sign right. Otherwise, you might end up with the whole problem wrong.

I hope that these suggestions are helpful to you to do well in this class.

Tips to Succeed:

- 1.) Continue practicing/studying the previous material learned. You will be quizzed on older material, and the final is cumulative. So it will benefit you in the long run to start studying now instead of cramming a whole quarter's worth of math the night before the final.
- 2.) Go to class. Aside from the very thorough lectures, Instructor Lo will bring up theorems/definitions/concepts that may not be in the book. You will for sure be quizzed or tested on them in the future.
- 3.) Learn to understand theorems and definitions, not memorize them. You will be asked to demonstrate your understanding of theorems and definitions on most-if not all-quizzes and exams in this class. Sometimes you will be asked to just state the definition, but most times, you will be asked to choose wisely and apply a theorem/definition to a problem. So by fully understanding the theorems and definitions, it'll be a much easier task.

Mistakes that I've Made:

- 1.) I did not have consistent studying habits. I tend to pay more attention to one class than another on most days, which made me fall behind every now and then. I would study for another class and completely "forget" about math, and vice versa. What I should have done was split up the workload ahead of time and devote a few hours to math each day. The knowledge you use everyday is what you remember, so the more time you spend on something, the more you will retain.
- 2.) I underestimated how much time it would take to complete a homework assignment or study for a quiz/exam. This is yet another reason for me falling behind, and I would end up having to spend even more time trying to learn the new material. De Anza does run on a quarter system, so we go through the textbook fairly quick. Do not fall behind!

Personal Development Exercise

In order to master mathematic, practice is a must. The more problems and types of problem a student can recognize, the more comfortable he or she will get during tests and quizzes. Also, as getting involved to the problems, students can learn how to think logically and in diverse directions. This is very helpful because it gives the ability to deeply understand the construction of the problem and to acknowledge common mistakes in order to avoid in the future.

Learning also means to absorb the knowledge of other people. Going to class is all about taking notes of what is new and helpful for the self-studying at home. There is subtle, but crucial, information that can be easily ignored during a problem; or a better way to solve it. Listening to the teacher, taking notes, learning how to analyze math from others are the keys to be successful in every math class.

Being able to use previous experiences on solving simpler problems to analyze the highly leveled ones and to explain the work is crucial. Learning and practicing needs to be performed constantly so that a firm platform can be created. Students must only move forward when they are completely sure about the knowledge of the previous class. Since every aspects of math connect to each others, lacking of understanding will lead to falling behind in class and a gradual lost of the basics

There is no problem that is easy. Underestimating a lesson or information will result in a habit of forgetting it, which will lead to making mistakes during tests and quizzes. Also, it will cause laziness about the preparation on that particular aspect that turns unexpected questions into impossible to solve. Treating math lessons as a new discovery and being serious about understanding them help the students push their hardest to master the subject.

Finishing 1 problem doesn't mean that it is all done. Like reading, multiple times of studying is the only way to put one thing into the long-term memory. Trying to accomplish the home work list, by copying the solutions or asking for help before really think about it, is the main reason why students who always complete their homework but still can't excel their tests.

Three recommendations

1. Do make sure you do your home work. And the sample questions in the lecture. Because most of the quizzes and tests are from them, but only change numbers or their presented type. And only when you get familiar with those questions you could master your tests.
2. Do come earlier on the quiz and test day. Because you will find it would benefit you some extra time for taking the questions and it will release your pressure for not finishing the questions. When you are nervous and under more pressure, believe me, you would probably get a blink brain.
3. Do not estimate to go to your office hour. Maybe you think you are genius and can solve your entire problem by yourself. But the truth is you cannot. So try to make time to visit the office hour. You could find something you really do not understand but you thought you get it.

Two personal and study mistakes

1. Actually I did finish all the homework assigned. But usually I did not review them, instead I just memory all the solution method for each type of questions. And that really get me stuck on the tests. Sometimes things do happen like you find you could not remember everything you should know or you thought you master them. That was so sad you could remember one particular question is in which section and even the homework number. But you forgot how to solve that in details.
2. It is good to look at the previous tests and their solution. But I got a lazy mistake was only review the solution and found out I knew how to do it instead of doing the actual work without hints. And do not try to guess what would be in the test and which part are the main problems in the test. That would narrow your review area and got you a big "surprise" when you saw the real questions on the test paper.

Hello Guys, Welcome to Calculus 1A in Mr. Bertrand Lo's class. Honestly, it was not a hard class at all if I had studied in a good way since the class began. Since nobody likes to spend too much time on just reading whatever everyone is saying again and again but if you want to succeed in the class you should do it.

Mistakes:

Bad Time Management: Since I had a very bad time management in Winter quarter, I didn't do this class very well. I didn't have enough time to finish homework for all classes. Try to take that amount of classes in which you can do your best and for that you should have enough time. And yeah, if working is required, try to take less classes or reduce your work.

Lack of Hard Work: Obviously, If we are not doing a good job in the class, it means we are not working hard as the way we should. Math requires a lot of practice and deep understanding. Once you understand it, everything is very easy. So I think I had a lack of hard work in this class, that is why, I used to do those mistakes that I am not supposed to do. **"Hard work is the key to success", M K Gandhi**

Good English: If you know the concept but you don't know how to explain it then nobody can help you. I used to do a lot of mistakes while writing definitions. So, I lost a lot of points.

Recommendations:

Practice, practice, and practice: Practice is very important. With a lot of practice, you come to know about your mistakes and then you will never repeat them.

Be Punctual: Punctuality is very important. Doesn't matter you are 10 seconds late or 10 minutes, you are late. But don't drive too fast if you are late. Nothing is important than our life.

Don't Forget God: In Modern age, we believe that we make our luck and future by ourselves and it's true. If you finish all homework on time and do enough practice, you will be a genius in Math. But still don't forget to say thanks to your God for all strength that provides you to work hard and practice, before you begin quizzes and tests. But if you have not done enough practice then you shouldn't ask for help because **God exists in hard work.**

All in all, go and do your best, find your own mistakes, and make them correct.

1. STUDY THEORY CAREFULLY.
2. ALWAYS ASK INSTRUCTOR FOR HELP.
3. TRY TO PREDICT WHAT MIGHT BE ON THE QUIZ.
4. ^{pay attention} ~~LISTEN~~ TO INSTRUCTOR'S LECTURE BECAUSE HE MIGHT SAY YOU HAVE TO USE HIS METHOD OR DEFINITION TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS ON THE TEST.
5. AFTER YOU KNOW HOW TO DO A PROBLEM, TRY TO DO IT IN A SHORT TIME BECAUSE QUIZZES AND TESTS ARE VERY SHORT.
6. IF YOU FINISH THE EXAM BEFORE THE TIME, AFTER CHECKING YOUR EQUATIONS, TRY TO USE OTHER METHODS TO CHECK THE ANSWER.
7. DO NOT MEMORIZE PROBLEMS, TRY TO UNDERSTAND IT BECAUSE LOTS OF PROBLEMS ON THE TEST ARE REQUIRED TO THINK.
8. SOME FOMULAS ONLY WORK IN CERTAIN SITUATION.

[a] Do every single piece of assigned homework, and maybe even more. You see that one exercise that's too long or hard for you to do as pleasantly as you did the previous ones? It's going to be on the exam, and it's worth a lot.

[b] Focus on the process of solving the question rather than on the answer. The answer's only purpose is to check that you accomplished the solving process correctly. You'll get a better grade if you focus on understanding what you're doing in the homework instead of abusing formulas.

[c] When correcting your quizzes, always seek out a possibility for credit. Not only is your work probably worth more than you think, but you'll get a better feel of where you started writing the nonsense that cost you the full points. Moreover, if you're short on time, you'll be able to get points for a started problem.

Mistakes:

[a] Don't take this course if you're enrolled in more than three classes. To even have a chance on the quizzed, you need to give the homework two hours of daily attention—not two hours of mindless calculations. This is impossible if you have four papers due the next week. You will end up sleep deprived and unable to keep up with anything as soon as an assignment chews the small safety margin you've gotten to build for yourself in the beginning of the quarter.

[b] Don't skip the prerequisites. While some fare better than others when it comes to adapting to briefly exposed new knowledge, everybody will perform significantly worse than he would have if he had the prior knowledge. Review your trig. Review your asymptotes. Review before it's due, because you will waste precious homework time trying to understand why an exercise requires an obscure identity instead of gaining experience.

Recommendation:

1. To be attentive in class: As a student, one should understand every material discussed during lecture time. In order to do so, giving full attention on lecture hours and participating during class times are the two most significant factors that can elevate a student's ability to comprehend any material. This in turn also helps you to perform better on your succeeding exams
2. Behaviors recommended on test days: I would highly suggest for a student to arrive 10 minute early on quiz and mid-term days. In doing this, it will help you to have much amount of time to do all the questions on the test, because the allotted time for every test is always limited. The most important behavior a student should get rid of while taking exam is to get panicked. Unless this problem is solved, you won't be able to get a good result which in turn negatively affects your total grade.
3. Doing home work: The most important task you should do while taking this course is to be on top of your homework. You should be able to do all the assigned home work questions for that specific lecture. If you pass through any difficulties while doing your homework, the best advice is to go and see the instructor during his office hours. Doing your home work helps you to succeed in this class for there are similar types of questions that appear on every test.

Mistakes:

1. Study after every lecture hour: For your intuition, you should always remind yourself to study every day after lecture time. Because I was not doing this since first day of class, I

was not able to get a good grade on my first mid-term exam. Therefore, what I highly recommend for all students taking this course is to have a permanent time to study and do your homework every day.

2. Understanding theorems and definitions: One of the few major areas you should prioritize to succeed in this course is to understand every single theorems and definitions discussed in class. I was normally memorizing definitions, not comprehending it. Because I was not giving attention for theoretical part of the course, I have lost points which I don't deserve if I have taken much time to understand the concept behind each theories and definitions.

These are my personal experience and advices to success at

Math 1A.

Recommendations:

1. Review your precalculus skills! You will have a diagnostic quiz at the begging of the class, and that tells you whether you have enough math foundation to be able to learn calculus. If the result is not as expected, you better review it. Specially the trigonometric part (identities, graphs), those are going to show up a lot so you better know them well.
2. Go to the group tutoring! The instructor might sign up a group tutoring at S43. Don't haste, just give it try (it doesn't cost anything). I start going to the tutoring when I did bad on the first midterm, and I found it really helpful. So don't wait until you have a bad score, give it a try at the first place.
3. Work with a partner if possible! Working with someone in math might sound a bit awkward to you. However, it is really helpful. You might have different thought or method on the same problem; you can share your ideas or check your work with each other. And there might be partner quizzes that

allow you to work with your partner! So find a partner and learn together!

Mistakes:

1. Make sure you know what the difference between definition and theorem is. When using a theorem, make sure you know what the conditions are and what the conclusion is. If you learn these concepts well, it will increase your chance to success.
2. Another thing that really hurts my grade is efficiency. I never give myself a time limitation when practicing. However, there is a limited time on tests. So solving the problems is not enough, you have to solve it in time. In order to be more efficient, the only way is to "practice". Don't just do the assigned questions; try to do some extra questions to gain experience.

Hope these advices will help, and wish you the best luck!

Recommendations:

1. Read the textbook before every lecture, and find whatever you don't understand and pay more attention to it in class, and raise questions if necessary. It's much easier to keep the definition/theorem/formula in your heart than memorize.
2. Before the quarter, review all pre-calculus definition/theorem/formula. When I was doing my homework, sometimes I got stuck by some trigonometric functions and graphs. If you got trouble in exams or quiz, you're gonna lose mounts of points.
3. If you are a good student, don't limit yourself only in the textbook. Do some problems plus, and that would give you some surprising ideas.

Personal mistakes:

1. I'm good at mathematics; however I underestimate the 1st exam, and only do the review package instead of finishing the homework. As a result, I only got 101 points on the 1st midterm exam. After that, I did all the homework for the 2nd midterm, and it turned out a 151 points perfect score.
2. During the 1st midterm, I spent too much time on some problems, which resulted in insufficient time for finishing the rest of problems and checking the answers. So allocate your time properly. If you were trapped in some problems, skip them and get back later.

Last Personal Development

To increase your chances of success, I would recommend

- 1) doing all the homework. It reinforces your memory of what is taught in class. Even if you take good notes in class and understand what is being taught, you still need to do the homework to do well on the quizzes and tests.
- 2) getting enough sleep. This is vital especially for a class that starts so early in the morning. It will help increase your concentration in class so you understand the lecture.
- 3) reading about the chapter before coming to lecture. When I didn't, especially towards the end of the quarter, sometimes I just couldn't process the material at the same rate it was being taught. Reading about the material beforehand helps you understand much faster.

2 personal mistakes I made during the quarter were

- 1) I didn't state the definitions clearly enough for the first couple of quizzes. It is important you are VERY clear in writing the definitions; otherwise you may get points deducted for not being specific enough.
- 2) work fast on the first midterm. I would have done a lot better had I paid attention to how much time I had left. You need to follow the exact time allocation recommendations Mr. Lo gives.

***Recommendations:**

1) After finishing each lecture, you have to figure out what the main idea is. It will help you to understand the core of the lesson and from that you can easily understand the method of solving problems. It is better to understand than to try to finish the problems.

2) You have to try to finish homework before looking for the answer key in the back of textbook. It forces you to check your work so that you can realize what your mistakes are. Therefore, you know how to avoid those common mistakes or algebra mistakes on quizzes, midterms, final.

3) When you are taking a test, you should try not to get stuck because it will make you anxiety and easily leads to bad effects on your thinking for the rest questions. You should also set up time for each question and try to finish the easy ones first. One more important thing, you should check your answers before turning in. If the time is running out and you have not figure out the hard question, you should come back and check your answers to make sure that you get full credits on those. Then, you continue solving the hard question.

***Mistakes:**

1) You should not skip easy questions. It is hard to know which one is easy if you haven't mastered the lesson so you might skip the special types of questions (it means there might be some tricks on those question that can easily get you). Moreover, it might help you to speed up on those easy questions on the test so that you can have more time for the hard ones and checking your answers.

2) You should not depress yourself before the test. It will affect your thinking. Therefore, you can get some minor mistakes or major ones (based on how depressed you are) even though you have gone through it when you did your homework.

Recommendations:

1. Even though the homework is not collected, I recommend you do the homework plus extra practice problems in order to ensure you fully understand the concept. A surprising amount of the material is learned through the reading and doing homework problems.
2. Every Friday when you have a quiz and on every test day, be sure to come 10 minutes before class starts. The extra time given on the quiz/test really does help. Whether it gives you more time on a particular problem or time to look over your work and catch any arithmetical errors you have made, the extra time is very helpful.
3. Start at least studying for midterms at least three days before the date of the midterm. If you start too late, you're forced to cram things and rush your studying. Also, you probably won't get the proper amount of practice problems done. The only way to properly understand these concepts is through practicing the problems, the homework, and midterm review.

Mistakes:

1. The biggest mistake I probably made was not visiting the teacher during office hours. Whenever I didn't understand something, I would try to figure it out by reading it in the book, otherwise I would just continue without fully understanding the concept. There is a reason the teacher has office hours, be sure to fully utilize them.
2. Do not procrastinate on the homework. The beginning of the class isn't too hard, but when things really pick up it's important to stay on top of things. I started neglecting the homework towards the end and that showed on my quiz scores.
3. Ask questions during the review days. I always went in thinking that I would just learn off of other people's questions. That didn't work well because they were asking about things they were unsure on, not me. Be sure to bring your own questions in to class that day.

Bert Lo

Math1A

3/25/11

To be honest, I wasn't very successful in Math 1A but it's because of my habits and not because of Bert. He is a very good instructor and he cares about your success. What you get out of his class is what you put into it. That means that if you want an A that means you're going have to be best friends with textbook and your lecture notes. Also, if you want to be on Bert's good side participate in class.

Another good thing to do is refresh on the prerequisites because they will bite you in the butt at one point or another. Try to study in groups. Honestly, you should do that in any difficult class you are taking. With math there are often many different ways to approach a problem. Having a lot of ideas out there can help. Also take advantage of any resources Bert gives you. That includes the things on his website, any group tutoring he has set up and his office hours.

Bert is very clear and articulate instructor but your success depends on you. Don't be like me. I suggest working on math everyday if you have to. Work hard and hold on because this class isn't a walk in the park.

To tell the truth, I did not do well on this 1A class and yes, there are lots of things that I want you to know to increase your chance of success in this class. Let me start with the mistakes that I made and totally gave me a hard time during the whole quarter. First, I missed classes. It gave me a hard time because professor teaches every single important thing in the lecture which you can not just figure out by yourself through self studying. There is always something else you can learn through the lecture not just from the book. It is really important since most quizzes and tests are based on those things from lecture. I did not do all of my homework. Professor does not check the homework so I thought I do not have to do all of the homework since I can understand the material. However, homework is not just the homework. It is the practicing of the material that you learned. You can be more comfortable by doing all of the homework, when you are actually solving problems on quiz and test. I should have spent more time on studying. I spent about 4~5 hours per week on studying, and it was NOT enough because I was just doing homework and that does not mean I actually studied 4~5 hours. To do well on this class, you should spend at least 5 hours per week except doing homework. The other mistake that I made was, I did not ask questions to professor about the material which I could not get perfectly. As an international student, it was not comfortable to ask a question about what professor just explained because it is a bad manner in my country. If I asked questions about what I need, I could understand lecture easier. Also, I did not review everything from previous tests and quizzes before I take the other test. I read the previous chapter's note but did not practice the problems. It hurt my chances of succeeding because test 2 or 3 means you have perfectly understood previous chapters so you are ready to use all of those skills from test 1 and 2. I should have practiced more previous questions before I take the test. These are the part of the mistakes that I made during quarter. Based on these, here are some recommendations that I can give to you. First of all, practice as much questions as you can do. It does not matter if it is from the book or not. You have to be comfortable on solving any kind of problem and more practice will give you the availability of faster and correct answering during the test and quiz. Second, study persistingly. You are not a machine that can remember everything forever. Continuous reviewing and studying are going to make your skills stronger, so you do not have to study chapter 1 to 5 just couple days before the test. Also, it is important since everything is related. Third, when you study, do not just go through the solutions that you have already got. Try to solve it again on a separate paper without the solutions. If you look at the old solution while you are solving same problem, it is not that much different with just reading the old solution. Forth, be prepared for every class. There is something that you have to know before you go to class. Professor may skip those basic things, such as trig function, since this class has pre-requisite. If you have not seen those for long time

and forgot most of them like me, prepare it before the class. Do not think you can just figure it out during lecture because you will miss more things while you are thinking of those. For the last, do not think you can make it up later. Beginning part of the class is the easiest part of the whole quarter which means you can get the highest point on quizzes and tests. It is getting harder and harder, so do not put anything back, and do your best from the beginning. These are what I learned through this class. Since it was my first math class in last 15 years, even though I did not do well on this class, I will do better by following my recommendations because I think mistakes give the other chances of succeeding if you learn something from that.

Dear future Professor Lo student,

My first recommendation I suggest you perform in order to increase your chances of success, is to attend to group tutor sessions if they are available. The tutor is usually a former student of Professor Lo's and as a result, he/she knows exactly how Professor Lo would want the question solved. The tutor will also give you additional problems to solve which provides a way to test yourself and see how much you really know.

My second recommendation I suggest to you, is to review tests and quizzes from past classes if they are available. The past test and quizzes are a great way to see what subject you need to practice more. However, they are not a substitute for doing homework.

My third recommendation to you is to completely read a given section in the textbook before the day that section is taught. I know that is a suggestion in the greensheet, but I feel it is important enough to necessitate a reiteration. By reading the section beforehand, you can pick up on the more complicated problem solving skills needed in that section.

Based off of the mistakes I made in Professor Lo's class, I have two additional recommendations. My first mistake I made and suggest you do not repeat is not working on homework with another student in the class. I only did homework by myself and as a result, I only saw/practiced one way to solve a given problem. Your partner may see a shortcut or an easier way to solve a problem.

I also made the mistake of not completing the review packet two days before the test. By completing the review packet two days in advance, you are able to ask for help on a problem in class the day before the test. You can then practice the problem you had trouble on the night before the test.

Recommendations

1. Read the textbook the second time if you are having trouble understanding the material from that particular sections Since reading the textbook once does not really get you understand the material fully, it is always better to read it twice. The first time you read it should be just getting familiar with the context, and the second time you should fully absorb what you are reading and understand them.
2. Memorize theorems and definitions day by day. When you first encounter theorems or definitions, you should at least understand what it is about. Everyday you should read the theorems and definitions couple times and memorize it until you can recite it without looking at it.
3. Do the midterm review and study them after you check your answer with the answer provided by the instructor. This is very helpful because most of the time the instructor will put identical questions on the midterm.

Personal mistakes

1. One big obstacle that impeded me the most from succeeding is the utilization of time during tests. I should have focus on what I know and do them first and then spend the rest of my time doing the difficult ones. It is always better to do the problems you are strongest at and then leave the rest of the time to do the ones you are weak at.
2. Another mistake is that I should have tried my best to solve a problem before I actually look at the solution manual. Often I know how to do the problem, but for convenience sake I often take a peek at the solution before I actually attempted to do it. So the best way is to come up a solution first, and if you are still have trouble to solve the problem, look at the textbook and notes, and if still could not figure it out, then look at the solution **only** at the point where you are stuck at.

Math 1A Recommendations

Hello future 1A students here are a couple of recommendations to help you succeed this quarter. One thing I highly recommend is doing the homework because the homework problems are very similar to those on tests and quizzes. Another thing I recommend is to ask questions whenever possible because it is very easy to fall behind this class if you don't understand the material. One final recommendation that I have would be to show up ten minutes early on quiz/test days because you get a few extra minutes to work on the test/quiz. One mistake I did in this class was not doing the homework within 48 hours of the lecture. This caused me problems because even though I know the material I didn't have enough practice with it when it came to the test/quiz. Also, homework is given almost daily so if you fall behind it's hard to catch up which is more stress than one needs. Another mistake I made in this class was not reviewing the professor's website completely. This to my surprise actually hurt my score on one of the first few quizzes because I didn't read the policies that come into effect when test taking. Also, there are other handy review sheets on his website so you should definitely check his website daily.

I am taking Mr. Lo for math 1A this quarter, and since it almost comes to the end of this quarter, I would like to give future students some recommendations as well as warnings about this class. First of all, ask question when materials don't make sense to you. While starting a new chapter, you often have something you don't understand. In this case, you should figure it as soon as you can by either asking Mr. Lo (best recommended) or other students because the later the section or the chapter, the more comprehensive it is. As a result, having a good foundation of a new chapter is important because it enable you to understand the latter and harder sections of the chapter. Second advice is to go the tutoring center. The Tutoring center has been extremely helpful to me for my study, especially in math. They have thoughtful and patient student tutors working there, and they help you with your lecture material and homework. In addition, because some of them possibly took Mr. before, you can get suggestion from them about how to be successful in the class as well. Last but not least, often check out the website. Mr. Lo updates his website frequently so you should not just visit his website once a week or you miss a lot. In addition, he provides the link which connected to the previous quarters of his math classes. From there, you can find out some old quizzes and exams, and they sometimes are similar to the one you are going to have. In addition to suggestion, I would also like to share two major mistakes I have made in his class, and they have given me huge negative impact for my class. First mistake is that during his lecture, I focused too much on taking my note rather than understanding his lecture. Sometimes after his class, it seemed to me that I learned nothing from the lecture, and I often needed to spend to a lot of times to figure out the material covered. That was really inefficient. The situation got better when I spent more time trying to understanding his lecture, and only copied down the concepts and theories, and the questions which are different from the text. (A lot of questions in the lecture are similar to those on the text. Second mistake I have made was to studying over night for his midterm. I took his second midterm after I spent over night studying. However, the result turned out to be horrible. Because if you don't have good sleep, it hurt you memory, and you might have difficulty coming out the idea and formula about solving those midterm's questions.

1. Read the textbook before and after the lecture. This cannot be stressed enough. If you read before the lecture, you will get a feel for what is going to be discussed in class that day. If there's anything that is unclear to you, you can ask questions about it in class. Also, reading after the lecture will help solidify your understanding of the concept.
 2. Reread and rewrite notes right after class. Explanations of the material are most clear right after each lecture. Make sure your notes are up to par and read over them to make sure you have it right. Examples within the notes are essential to completing the homework. Try and connect each day's lecture notes to concepts you have already learned in the chapter. How does it relate and build upon previous sections of the chapter?
 3. Do homework asap after each lecture. Starting homework while the concepts are still fresh in your head is better than starting later on. This will make homework easier because you won't forget how to do the problems and will give you intuition on how to do the problems, which is absolutely essential on quizzes and midterms.
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1. I did not complete a few homework problems and this brought my grade down tremendously. Completing the homework all the way is essential. Do not leave any single problem unfinished, chances are it will show up on a quiz or midterm. Especially if it is a challenging question. These kinds of questions help set up your thought process on midterms. There is no such thing as over preparing in this class.
 2. I didn't review my prerequisites soon enough. I eventually reviewed all of the necessary trig and pre-calculus material needed for this class, but sooner is better than later. You absolutely will need to have strong prerequisites for the first week of class. So if you have trouble at all with prereq material, review it asap.

3 recommendations:

1. Remember all the definitions and theorems and can prove all of them
 - a. the important DEF'N and TH'M will exist on your quizzes or tests.
 - b. if you can understand the difference between conditions and conclusions clearly, you can do well on this part of test.
2. Do more extra exercises but your homework
 - a. since exams will be pressed for time, do more exercises can enhance the degree of your familiar for the problems and improve your efficiency.
 - b. understanding better which materials you always forget or make the same mistake on your homework or exams.
3. Make all the notes in this class
 - a. the notes in very, very important because there will be some extra knowledge that the textbook dose not include.
 - b. making notes is very helpful for your review.

2 personal mistakes

1. Careless
 - a. it's my big problem. Actually the exams are not difficult, but careless will lead to take off many points which you can get originally.
 - b. because of the careless again and again, maybe you will have fewer confidence to do well on your next quiz or test.
2. Did not do enough preparation before the new lecture.
 - a. if you did not do enough preparation before the new lecture, you will not find the problems in advance, and probably you can not catch up with the teacher.
 - b. I think the worst influence is you will not understand what teacher says totally; maybe you should spend much time to study them by yourself after class, it's kind of waste time.

Hello, 1A students! If you're not just looking for an easy A class but actually willing to learn, you've made right choice with Mr. Bert Lo! It might be hard throughout the quarter but you will actually learn and will get strong 1A background when you move forward to 1B. To do well in this class here are some recommendations for you and mistakes that I made that hurt me during this quarter:

Recommendations

1. Textbook – read, read, and read! : It's actually the most basic step when learning but most likely, you will not have chance in class to read that certain chapter or section. Therefore make sure you read before and after the lecture and take notes.
2. Make sure you do your assigned homework: Doing homework is very helpful to prepare for the quizzes and tests. I personally thought many question from quizzes and tests were based on homework problem, and you'll be testing your knowledge by doing your homework.
3. Use office hours and tutorial center: I'm not sure if you'll have group tutoring, but if you do have it, please go. You can ask as many questions to clear whatever things you might not understand and tutors are willing to help you! Plus office hour to ask questions to Mr. Lo

Mistakes that I made

1. Looking at the solution (or back of the book) when doing homework: I think this was a big NO-NO. Because I already know the answer, I was able to guess what might be the process of that certain problem, therefore I when it came up on quiz or test; I ended up with forgetting its steps or how to solve.
2. Absent for a class: I missed one day of class in this quarter, and I was totally lost what was going on that section. I got the notes from a classmate, but still didn't get the section because it was pretty big section from the chapter.

Hope you have this recommendation and mistakes in your mind, then you'll succeed through this quarter. Good luck!

Personal Development Exercise

Recommendations for increasing chances of success:

1. **Never absent from each lecture:** two reasons, first, you can bring your questions which you couldn't solve by yourself to the class. Teacher will help you step by step, instead of giving you the answers. Second, if you miss one lecture, you do not have a chance to take notes. The key is notes are really important stuff during the class. Notes can help us easily understand the contents.
2. **Study the book before lecture:** it's better to follow the teacher during the lecture. Once I didn't read the book, I totally lost my way. I didn't know what's going on. After class, I still had to spend times on studying.
3. **Do extra homework:** only finish the homework the teacher given is not enough. Do more, learn more. For example, even though you understand a theorem, but there are many types of questions that you might not be good to utilize the theorem.

Mistakes:

1. **Don't forget check the website:** the website has many sources that can help us to confront the quizzes or midterms. At the beginning, I didn't go to the website frequently; therefore, I scored low points on my couple quizzes.
2. **Don't do the test too slow or spend too much time on a problem:** I usually spend too much time on a question, as a result, I run out of time. So, do as fast as you can and do the easier part first.

Four

~~Three~~ recommendations:

1. TRY TO FIND SOLUTION BY YOURSELF: When you stuck in a difficult topic, and do not understand it. You can read the book again, and google that topic (Wikipedia has a lot of information). It will help you to understand more. Meanwhile, you can ask for help in Yahoo Answer or send an Email to Professor.
2. DON'T MISS UP ANY HOMEWORK: By doing the homework, you can find out what your problems are. Besides, it helps you to remember the methods of solving questions and definition in the text book.
3. STUDY AHEAD: Learn ahead. Instead of being the same with other classmates, you should learn ahead. You will be more confident, and easier to understand what the teacher is talking about. It will save your time to understand the material.
4. PARTICIPATE IN CLASS: Mr.Lo encourages students to participate in class. I did it and found that I can learn thing faster by keeping pace with him. Besides, there will be extra credits for it!!

Mistakes:

1. REMEMBER TO TAKE THINGS WITH YOU: I forgot to take my self assessment sheet on the due day. I had to rush to home to take it. What is more, if you lose your self-grading quiz, there will be no point of the quiz. Please do not forget!!
2. STRONG BODY IS VERY IMPORTANT: I did not finish the homework for two days due to my sick body. I think a good grade is not only base on a good brain, but also a good body. Therefore, you should do exercise daily to keep you away from diseases. Besides, Mr. Lo's lectures are very fast, you will fall behind if you miss classes.

- 1) Read the section before coming to class, it would help a lot.

If you read the text book before the lecture, you will understand the material better rather than if you just come to the lecture without having any basic information of the related section.

- 2) Make sure to spend a lot of time on homework assignments.

Because most of quizzes are based on homework problems so you need to be completely prepared for quizzes and midterms.

- 3) Came to class on time and try not to miss a class.
- 4) If you miss a class, you will be hurt big time since you will not be able to understand the material you have missed because Mr. Lo explains everything very clear in a way that you can't figure out yourself.

I have made few mistakes during the quarter which caused me a low grades on midterms. First, my background in precalculus and algebra was not strong enough in order to succeed in this class. Calculus is a hard course so you need to make sure that your precalculus and algebra background are strong enough to succeed in this class. Second and the biggest mistake of my education life was that I took two other difficult and important courses for the same as well. If you want to get good grades you need to spend at least 10 hours to study for calculus and DON'T take other difficult classes concurrently with calculus 1A.

Be on time, study hard, and you'll succeed

Good Luck

- 3 Recommendations

1) Do all the homework and ask questions when going over homework.

- By doing all the homework, or at least attempting to, you will learn and understand the material much better. Also, you can ask questions in class which will help clear things out. Do not procrastinate.

2) Read before lecture

- If you do not read before lecture, you may not understand the material as well as you could. Use the textbook examples to somewhat teach yourself concepts.

3) Review your pre-requisites!

- Calculus is a combination of all the math classes before it so even if you understand the concept, you may not be able to do the problem. Trigonometry and geometry are especially useful to review.

- 2 Mistakes

1) If you've taken calculus before, don't get cocky.

- Sure, you may know some stuff from previous courses but that does not excuse you from doing what everybody else is doing to learn. Your grade will suffer if you don't work hard.

2) Do not miss class

- Calculus is a difficult subject to understand so missing class only makes it harder. Attend all lectures, take notes and listen, and read. All of these will help you succeed, but not doing one will cause you to fail.

Recommendation

1. RELAX

It may seem overwhelming that you're taking Calculus for the first time, but you have to know that you've been prepared! Whether it's from high school or past math classes at De Anza, the fact that you're enrolled in this class means that you have the knowledge to be here. Yes, the quizzes and the tests are hard, but like I said, you will be prepared for it. Bert Lo will prepare you for battle with his lectures and "optional" homework which you SHOULD be doing all the time. Never tense up before the quizzes because you'll do worse, guaranteed. Personally, the quizzes that I didn't study in the morning, I did much better, by a lot.

2. BE RESPONSIBLE

Let me make this straight forward: if you miss one class, you pretty much lose a letter grade. Every class time is very important, Mr. Lo will go through a lot of materials in a day. So when you miss a day of class, expect to meet your worst nightmare! Or, you could get a friend who takes really good notes and is good at explaining what he or she wrote down. Plus, what else would you do during the intended math time, hang out with friends? Dude, really? Math is so much more fun with Mr. Lo than hanging out with your friends.

3. GET A BUDDY

Well for me, one of the things that helped me the most was to make a buddy in class. Me and this friend of mine met after school around 5PM till 7PM just to study math. It was really good because not only were we helping each other, but we built a strong relationship. It works out because when we have our special quizzes, I know exactly who to choose.

Mistakes

1. OVERCONFIDENCE

One of the worst things I've done during this quarter was to be overconfident. See, I don't know where I got the confidence, but I thought that I mastered the material just by reading the notes and doing some problems on the book. We all know how it turned out: not so well. If I hadn't been so overconfident with my knowledge and actually study more, then I

would have done way much better. Even if you think I know all the stuff, double check it just in case, it won't hurt to study extra 10 minutes.

2. WHICH ROW TO SIT

First few weeks of class, one of the girls stole my seat that I called dibs on the first day of class, so unfortunately, I sat on the third row. Third row, it's not a great seat because you tend to slack off since you think that the teacher can't see you. If you have actually committed to this class, try to sit on the front two rows in class. It's very nice since you can participate more in class.

Calculus Must's and Must Not's

1. Do the homework before the lecture. You might not understand it, but it's the only absolute surefire way to see what you understand and what you don't. That way, when it's lecture day, you'll have generally fewer, but more specific questions to ask.
2. Review your notes everyday. The more you see the material, the more it is percolating through your consciousness, and the more likely you are to remember it quickly on test day. Those valuable minutes saved will give you time to go back and check for any careless errors you may have made in a moment of exam anxiety.
3. Work with a buddy, that way if one of you loses motivation the other can help boost morale. Even if both of you are unmotivated, you'll still keep going because you don't want to be the one who gave up first. You also get work done faster, because you usually start developing a healthy competition to get through more problems.
4. Understand the workload before the drop date. I underestimated the amount of work that I would need to do because the prior quarter, the same course load was extremely easy. Know what the time commitment for a class is before you add it to your schedule. After all you might not be the type to just study 24/7 and even if you are, you still need a break from time to time.
5. Ask questions in class. This does not include homework questions. If you make the class lecture more of a discussion, you get more involved in the learning process and you're more likely remember the information and understand it well. I was kind of a chicken for a majority of the quarter and didn't talk nearly as much as I should have because I was scared of looking stupid. However, it's better to look stupid in class, and then know the material by test day, than to flounder around confused. Of course there are office hours, but you should really get the information correct in that first instant rather than re-learn something due to a mis-communication.

3 Recommendations to increase chances of success:

1. Always ask questions to clear up even the slightest misunderstandings. One thing you will notice in math1a is that details matter. If there is a slight uncertainty about a theorem, a definition, or a problem, it is imperative that you ask the teacher before the next quiz or midterm comes up.

2. Set up study sessions with friends and classmates before quizzes and midterms, make sure they are people you can talk with and do work comfortably with. Students will find that engaging with another fellow student and discussing the challenging problems together will enhance the student's thinking, analyzing, and problem solving skills.

3. Put in the time and effort to complete all assigned homework. Problems from the homework (and from the reading too, fyi) will occasionally appear on tests and quizzes. Also, doing homework will greatly improve the student's arithmetic skills, error identification skills, and organizational skills, all three skills which are essential to succeeding in math1a, and in math in general.

2 Study/ Personal mistakes that hurt the chances of success:

1. Not being engaged in any sort of dialogue. What this means is, students will have a harder time succeeding if they do not listen, participate, and understand the professor's lectures (many students, you will realize, will spend the entire class period taking notes and not be engaged in the classroom discussion. This is very harmful because many students will leave the class more confused than they were before). Also, students will have a harder time succeeding if they do not participate in any out of class discussions. Although individual thought and practice is equally as important, group discussions allow for a wider and deeper exchange of ideas, resulting in intellectual "sparks" of ingenuity.

2. Not putting in the time and effort to complete all homework assigned because the student feels ok with the material. Homework is when the student gets to apply the concepts and ideas learned in class and from the book to actual mathematical problems.

Recommendations:

1. Form Study Groups: If you truly want to understand the material forming a group will help. Everyone works differently so you can see and learn multiple ways about doing the coursework.
2. Read the Text: Not only is reading and understanding the text important, some of the examples will show up on quizzes and midterms. If you know these examples the tests become that much easier.
3. Do Additional Problems: Even though finish going through the assigned worked it still may not be enough to actually know the material. The best way to know you have it down is to keep working on more problems.

Mistakes:

1. Don't Fall Behind: *Keep up with the classwork and homework. Falling behind by just one day can make following lectures hard to understand. The homework begins to pile up as well. Don't procrastinate.*
2. Don't Forget Proofs/Theorems: Understanding these can mean the difference between acing a quiz or failing. If you know you're theorems you should be able to handle any problem given to you.

My main recommendation to anyone wanting to succeed in this class is to do ALL of the homework. If you only do some of the homework and stop when you think, "Oh, I've got the hang of this..." you will miss out on questions that may possibly be on quizzes and the extra problems will help you understand more and reinforce the concepts. It is also helpful to study with at least one other person because you may understand problems that others don't and vice versa. Explaining how to solve a problem gives you a better understanding of how those problems work. It is a good idea to take advantage of office hours so when you have exhausted all other possibilities, the teacher can explain to you how to work the problem. Problems I had this quarter were I didn't study well. I didn't set up time for me to study where I wouldn't get distracted by other things and that really hurt me on quizzes and tests. I slept through a few classes causing me to miss important lectures and although you can get the notes from someone else, it's not the same as being there and seeing the problems worked out.