

# **QTS Numeracy Made Easy**

Mental Arithmetic

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Everything you need to know to pass  
the mental arithmetic section of  
the numeracy test required for  
Qualified Teacher Status.

## **Authors Note**

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## Introduction

In my experience, most problems with the QTS Numeracy test are with the audio only mental arithmetic section due to the time limit on each question. This part of the test asks twelve questions twice and then allows 18 seconds for an answer to be inputted before going onto the next question automatically. Candidates can easily run out of time, if they use an inappropriate method and then panic as the test moves onto the next question.

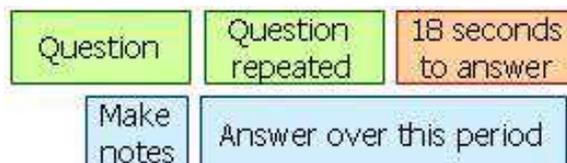
The second part of the test covers 16 questions on statistics and general maths in 36 minutes. There is no time limit on each question so it is less stressful.

The pass mark is 18/28. That means you only need to get *one mark* for the mental arithmetic section if you can get 16 marks in the on-screen part of the test

## Strategy to pass the QTS Numeracy Test, mental arithmetic section.

- Although it is called mental arithmetic *don't* do the questions in your head.
- Practise using a blank sheet of paper to make fast notes as you hear each question.
- Write down the key numbers during the first reading of the question
- Start working through the question during the second reading and continue into the 18 second period.

The time you have to answer each question is different due to the length of reading time for the question. Typically you have between 28-40 seconds to answer.



If you *just* miss answering a question in time, take a deep breath and listen to the next question. Remember you are only need to get a few right in the mental arithmetic section.

If you have a phobia for maths you will overcome it with practise.

## The Videos

This guide should be used in conjunction with the mental arithmetic videos supplied with this revision pack. You have three test and three answer videos.

The videos replicate the timings in the real test. The answer videos provide scribbled notes and explanations created in real time, just like you would do in the real test. By their very nature the quality of notes and explanation is as would be expected in the short time allowed.

Practice with the three audio numeracy tests before reviewing the answers in real time.