

## Accelerated Math in Mr. Mac's Class Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **How many questions are in each practice session?**

*Practice sessions contain 5 questions for each “yet-to-master” objective covered in the session, and will usually also include individual review questions from previously mastered objectives. For example, a 30 question practice session may have 25 questions from 5 unmastered objectives, and 5 review questions from previously mastered objectives.*

- **In order to receive completion of Objectives, how many practice questions/practices must students do before they are given a test to demonstrate mastery.**

*Students must score 4 out of 5 or better on the practice questions for an objective to qualify for a test of mastery. If they score less, they are assigned another 5 questions in the next practice session. If they show repeated problems with the same objective, I am alerted by the system and we review the objective in class.*

- **How many questions are in each test session? What score is needed for mastery?**

*Tests contain 5 questions for each objective covered. A score of 4 out of 5 or better on each objective will qualify as mastery. For example, a test covering 5 objectives will have 25 questions. Objectives are scored individually, so it is possible to master some objectives and not others on a test.*

- **So how much math should a student do daily to be caught up? 30 minutes a day? A certain number of practices? A certain number of questions? I guess on our end, as parents, we are having a hard time understanding \*how much\* a student needs to complete \*each day\* to reach a goal and how to measure it.**

*In 20 focused minutes, most students should be able to answer 10-15 questions - at this rate they should complete a 30 question practice in 2-3 homework sessions and hopefully earn the right to test on those 5 or 6 objectives. Response rates on tests should be faster given their familiarity with the questions from the practice, so an average of 4 objectives mastered per week is the goal.*

*At the end of each practice and test, AM provides a breakdown of scoring for each objective covered. This is an excellent resource to review with your child to understand how they are progressing towards their goal.*

*Remember that success in AM is measured in mastery, not time or number of questions. Students can master an objective in as little as 10 questions - 5 on the practice and 5 on the test. Working on fewer practice questions, reading them carefully, using the*

*available resources and checking calculations is much more efficient and effective than zipping through, making careless errors, and guessing. My experience in class over the years indicates that most students who go fast and don't check their work get 75% or less correct - at that rate they will NEVER qualify for an AM test of mastery.*

- **We kept doing practices but then they stopped... Is there a reason for this?**

*I assign new practice objectives as students gain mastery, trying to keep about 5 objectives "ahead" of the student. If the student has many objectives ready to test but has not yet notified me, it is possible that the system will run out of practice objectives and be unable to generate more. This typically only happens over breaks or when students have been out of contact with me for an extended period.*

- **The 2nd Quarter Due Date for 35 mastered objectives is.....? School Calendar says report cards are due Jan 7th... Will students have break to work on the 35 or will that kick off a new Quarter during break?**

*The due date for mastered objectives is always the end of the grading period as shown on the school calendar, NOT the report card date. In this case, the end of Term 2 is December 21st.*

- **Can students work on AM over Winter Break? If so, will the objectives covered count towards Q3? Or are you not going to assign any over break?**

*While there is no requirement to work on AM over the Winter Break, students are welcome to keep working, and any objectives mastered will count towards the 3rd Term goal of 35 objectives. (Please understand that I may be a little slow to respond to requests for tests and new objectives since I will be in Canada for much of the break)*

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