PSLE Mathematics 2026

High-Yield Readiness Checklist & Self-Improvement Playbook
Aligned to the MOE Primary Mathematics Syllabus (Implementation from 2021 P1 cohort; latest syllabus file updated Oct 2025)

Use this PDF as a quick scoreboard. Tick off items, track weak spots, and follow the 12-week plan. For a personalised improvement plan, contact BukitTimahTutor.com at +88231234.

1) What changed and what matters most (priority order)

- Earlier foundations: time concepts appear earlier across lower primary.
- Earlier data & visualisation: pie charts and nets of solids are introduced earlier (moved into P4 in the updated progression).
- Upper-primary rebalancing: Average and Ratio are shifted into P6 (PSLE year has more proportional-thinking weight).
- Stronger bridge to secondary: basic algebra (letters as unknowns, simple expressions and equations) is introduced in P6.
- Streamlining: “Turns / 8-point compass” removed; Speed removed from the primary syllabus (not in PSLE scope when the 2021 syllabus reaches P6).
- Pedagogy upgrade: emphasis on “big ideas” (e.g., equivalence & proportionality) and metacognition (reflecting on strategies and errors).

PSLE Mathematics exam format (what the paper rewards)

Paper	What it contains	Calculator	Marks	Duration
Paper 1	Booklet A: MCQ (10×1m, 5×2m) Booklet B: Short answers (5×1m, 10×2m)	Not allowed	45	1 hour
Paper 2	Short answers (5×2m) Structured/Long answers (12 questions, 3/4/5m)	Allowed	55	1 hour 30 min
Total	47 questions across 3 booklets		100	2 hours 30 min

2026 PSLE timeline (tentative): registration in April; oral in mid-August; written examinations late September; timetable typically published by mid-February 2026 (SEAB calendar).

The 80/20 roadmap (biggest score multipliers)

- FDP: conversions, comparisons, multi-step percentage change, GST/discount contexts.
- Proportional thinking: ratio, equivalent ratios, part-whole, and linking ratio ↔ fractions ↔ percentages.
- Average: total–number–mean relationships, “replacement” and comparison word problems.
- Bar models + algebra bridge: represent unknowns cleanly; translate into simple equations when helpful.
- Units & checking: unit tracking, estimation, and checking answers (kills careless errors).
- Geometry + data: composite area/perimeter, volume, angles/properties, graphs/pie charts + basic probability.

2) Priority mastery checklist (tick-off scoreboard)

Tick ☐ when your child can do it correctly under time (not just once).

Mastery standard (use this 4-level scale)

- Level 1 — Know: can explain the concept with an example.
- Level 2 — Apply: can solve routine questions accurately.
- Level 3 — Transfer: can solve non-routine questions that mix topics.
- Level 4 — Under pressure: can do it in timed conditions with few careless errors.

Tier A: Must-master (highest frequency + highest leverage)

- ☐ FDP fluency: convert between fractions, decimals and percentages quickly; compare values without calculator.
- ☐ Percentage change: discount, GST, increase/decrease, successive changes; identify base value correctly.
- ☐ Ratio basics: simplify ratios; find equivalent ratios; part–part and part–whole; share in a given ratio.
- ☐ Ratio ↔ fraction ↔ percentage: move between representations to choose the fastest solution path.
- ☐ Average: find total from mean; find mean from total; solve “add/remove/replace” average problems.
- ☐ Bar models: draw correct units and relationships for ratio/FDP/average word problems.
- ☐ Multi-step word problems: plan first, then compute; keep work organised and labelled.
- ☐ Accuracy habits: unit checking, rounding/estimation, final answer formatting (units, simplest form).

Tier B: High-yield (often tested; common marks lost)

- ☐ Algebra basics: use letters for unknowns; evaluate expressions; solve simple equations in word problems.
- ☐ Order of operations: correct use of brackets and multi-operation expressions.
- ☐ Measurement: unit conversions (m↔cm↔mm; kg↔g; L↔mL) and interpreting composite units.
- ☐ Area & perimeter: composite figures; “missing length” situations.
- ☐ Volume: cubes/cuboids; volume of liquids; multi-step volume problems.
- ☐ Angles & properties: triangles/quadrilaterals; symmetry; apply rules.
- ☐ Rate thinking: per-unit, “each costs”, constant-rate reasoning (appears inside many word problems).

Tier C: Completeness (don’t leave easy marks)

- ☐ Pie charts: read sectors; link fraction/percentage to angles; interpret statements in context.
- ☐ Graphs & tables: extract data accurately; compare; find differences/totals/averages from data.
- ☐ Probability (basic): list outcomes; simple fractions; recognise mutually exclusive events in simple settings.
- ☐ Nets of solids: recognise and visualise; match nets to solids; count features when required.

3) Problem-solving & reasoning toolkit (the ‘alpha’ layer)

Top students win because they have better thinking habits, not because they do 1,000 random questions. Use this toolkit during practice.

A. The 4-step solve loop (use every time)

- Understand: rewrite the question in your own words; underline what is asked; circle key numbers and units.
- Plan: choose a representation (bar model, table, equation, diagram). Decide the first calculation.
- Do: compute carefully; keep working steps clean (method marks matter in Paper 2).
- Check: estimate; verify units; substitute back; check extremes.

B. Heuristic checklist (pick 1–2; don’t use all)

- ☐ Draw a model: bar model for comparison, ratios, part-whole, before-after changes.
- ☐ Make a table: repeating patterns, “every n”, sequences, systematic listing.
- ☐ Work backwards: multi-stage ‘after doing X, then Y’ problems.
- ☐ Assume and adjust: start with a friendly number, then scale.
- ☐ Look for invariants: what stays the same after a change (total, difference, ratio, perimeter, etc.).
- ☐ Split into cases: for ‘either/or’ conditions, test both quickly.
- ☐ Estimate first: quick sense-check before heavy calculation.

C. Bar model → algebra bridge (when to switch)

If your bar model becomes messy, switch to a simple equation. Treat the unknown as x, write one relationship, and solve. Algebra is a cleaner language for complex word problems.

D. The ‘Error Log’ method (fastest way to improve)

After every practice set, record mistakes in an error log. Your goal is to eliminate repeat errors.

Date	Topic	Error type (concept / method / careless / time)	Correct idea (1 sentence)	Fix drill (3 questions)

E. Metacognition prompts (ask after each question)

- ☐ What was the fastest correct method here — and why?
- ☐ Where did I almost make a careless mistake?
- ☐ What pattern connects this question to something I’ve done before?
- ☐ If I had to teach this question in 60 seconds, what would I say?

4) 12-week practice plan (priority-driven, no fluff)

If you have less time, start from Week 12 backwards. Consistency beats intensity.

Weeks	Focus	What to do (high-yield actions)
1–4	Repair foundations (Tier A)	Daily 30–45 min: FDP + ratio/average drills; bar models; 1 mixed word problem. Build an error log from Day 1.
5–8	Transfer & mix (Tier A + B)	Alternate days: (i) mixed topical practice (FDP/ratio/average/algebra) and (ii) geometry/measurement. Every weekend: 1 timed Paper 1 section.
9–10	Exam mechanics	2 timed Paper 1 + 2 timed Paper 2 sections per week. After each: error log + ‘redo after 48 hours’ for every wrong question.
11–12	Full simulations	1 full set weekly (Paper 1 + Paper 2 same day). Train stamina, marking, and checking routines. Prioritise accuracy and clear workings.

Paper routines (non-negotiables)

- Paper 1 (no calculator): practise mental math, fraction sense, and clean working. Target: finish with 8–10 min buffer for checking.
- Paper 2 (calculator allowed): use calculator for arithmetic only — not for thinking. Write equations/models first, then compute.
- Checking routine: (1) units, (2) estimate, (3) re-read the question, (4) verify with an alternative method if unsure.
- Marking routine: award yourself method marks only when the method is correct.

Tools & admin checklist

- ☐ Calculator model is on SEAB’s approved list; practise with the same calculator throughout the year.
- ☐ Geometry set ready (ruler, protractor, compass) and used correctly (especially for angles).
- ☐ A dedicated ‘PSLE Math folder’: error log + formula reminders + redo questions.
- ☐ Exam calendar bookmarked; timetable release date noted (SEAB).

Official sources & links (for the most current updates)

- MOE Primary Mathematics Syllabus (Primary 1–6, updated Oct 2025): MOE PDF
- SEAB PSLE Mathematics syllabus document (0008): SEAB PDF
- SEAB 2026 PSLE examination calendar (tentative): Calendar PDF
- SEAB approved calculator list: Calculator PDF

Need help fast? If your child is missing multiple Tier A items or scores below 70% on timed practice, get a structured plan. Call/WhatsApp +88231234 (BukitTimahTutor.com).