

**MATHEMATICAL FORM:**  
***GOOD FORM vs. BAD FORM***

Your communication mark for this course will include following the rules shown below. Show all work, using **good form**, when solving a problem, and include a statement with your answer, where appropriate.

	<b>GOOD FORM</b>	<b>BAD FORM</b>
<u>Decimals</u> : Include the zero before the decimal point	0.63	.63
<u>Improper fractions</u> : There is nothing wrong with an improper fraction. It is even preferred.	$\frac{4}{3}$	$1\frac{1}{3}$
<u>Lowest terms</u> : All fractions and radicals must be expressed in lowest terms. Denominators are always positive. Negative signs in a fraction belong with the numerator.	$\frac{-20}{28} = \frac{-5}{7}$ or $-\frac{5}{7}$	$\frac{-20}{28}$ or $\frac{5}{-7}$
<u>Division lines</u> : Division lines should be drawn <b>horizontally</b> . Separate the entire numerator from the entire denominator.	$\frac{4}{7}$ or $\frac{x+4}{x-2}$	$\frac{4}{/7}$ or $x+\frac{4}{/x-2}$
<u>Equal signs</u> : When one line has the same value as the preceding line, <i>include</i> equal signs at the <i>beginning</i> of each line.	$2 - (-4) + (-5)$ $= 2 + 4 - 5$ $= 1$	$2 - (-4) + (-5)$ $2 + 4 - 5$ $1$
<u>Equations</u> : Equations do <i>not</i> need equal signs in front of <i>each</i> line. Equal signs should line up vertically.	$2x + 5 = 11$ $2x = 11 - 5$ $2x = 6$ $x = 3$	$2x + 5 = 11$ $= 2x = 6$ $= x = 3$
<u>Approximations</u> : Exact answers are preferred. Approximations should be indicated with the proper symbol. Round correctly!	$\sqrt{10} \div 3.16$ Or $\sqrt{10} \cong 3.16$	$\sqrt{10} = 3.16$ Or $\sqrt{10} = 3.16227$
<u>Therefore sentences</u> . They should be complete sentences written in words, include units.	The height of the wall is 6 metres.	height = 6 or height is 6
<u>Ordered pairs</u> : Ordered pairs are always written in parentheses.	(-4, -2)	-4, -2
<u>Opening/Let sentences</u> : They should be complete sentences, be precise and include units.	Let $x$ represent the height of the wall in metres.	let $x$ be the wall
<u>Drawing Cartesian graphs</u> : Even sketches should be drawn with a ruler and included labeled axes and arrow heads.		