

Re: Math is not a memoriter course.

Re: Math is not a memoriter course.

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2007-08/msg03974.html>

- *From:* jspeier@xxxxxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Thu, 23 Aug 2007 14:45:13 -0700
-

On Aug 22, 10:06 am, magi...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Arturo Magidin) wrote:

In article <fagas7\$17...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,

mina_world <mina_wo...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hello sir~

We learn many subjects in school.
My professor said that math is not a memoriter subject except multiplication table.

Are you agree ?

Yes... and no.

The multiplication tables are probably the only things that you really must memorize absolutely by rote: no understanding, just know them.

However, there are plenty of other things that one must memorize, simply because it would be impossible to do mathematics without having those things at your fingertips: definitions and basic properties, for example. You do not need to memorize the proof that cancellation (in sums) is valid in vector spaces, but by the same token you do not want to have to think about it and rederive it every time you need to cancel a summand in a vector space. Likewise, whatever your subject, one is well-served if you just \rightarrow know \leftarrow the basic theorems and basic definitions, or the hypothesis and conclusions of the important theorems that are applied over and over again.

Can you imagine someone doing algebraic geometry these days who has not memorized the definition of "scheme", and needs to look it up whenever he starts work?

Re: Math is not a memoriter course.

=====
"It's not denial. I'm just very selective about
what I accept as reality."

---- Calvin ("Calvin and Hobbes" by Bill Watterson)

=====
Arturo Magidin
magidin-at-member-ams-org

How can anyone doubt the value of memorizing the multiplication table? How can teachers not require this of every third grade student?

Do they really believe that it could possibly do more harm to the student than would be done over a lifetime by not knowing the single digit multiplication facts? Please help me understand this.

Businesses spend billions of dollars to impress images of products with happy and illogical associations on the minds of generations of young children through rote memorization -- the constant repetition of the same image until it sticks -- because the technique works. Only educators, often grade school math teachers, fail to see the benefits of knowing important facts cold.

.