

Math: What's the Point?

Connecting numeracy concepts to everyday activities

Literacy students often aspire to learn math, but it's usually because they feel they "have to" in order to pass their GED or get their Mature Grade 12. This often results in students just going through the motions — memorizing computational formulas without ever really knowing what they mean or how they apply to the real world. From students working on numeracy, we often hear, "Okay, I did it. But what's the point?"

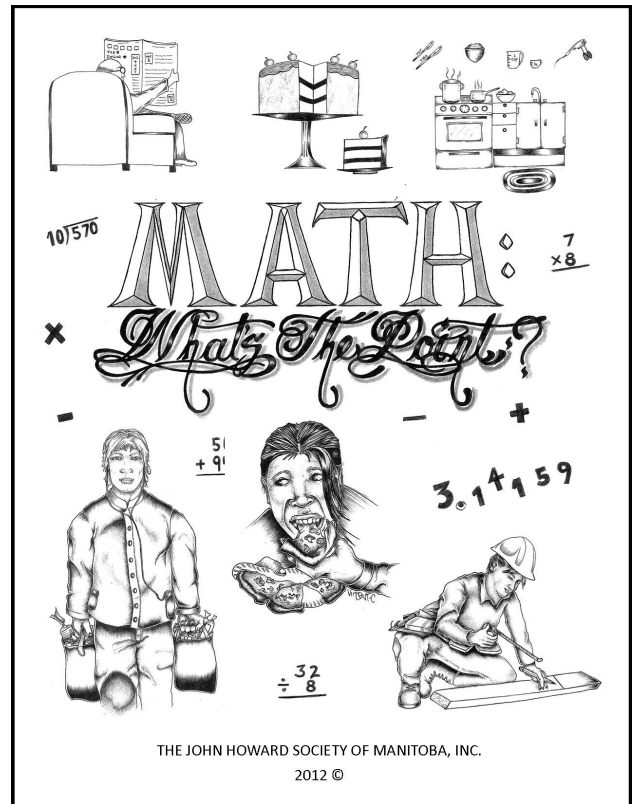
In *Math: What's the Point?* numeracy skills are taught and practiced in the context of everyday activities like shopping, budgeting, banking, cooking, and going to the gym. Authentic activities help readers take inventory of what they already know about math, how they use math in their daily lives, and the ways they can use new math skills to be better readers, students, parents, consumers and citizens.

Problem-solving is emphasized, but we move behind the traditional world problem format and into everyday situations that require math skills, where students are expected to collect data, use multiple math skills at once, and integrate reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students are asked to plan out a workout regimen, plot out a home or community garden, and price out a tattoo. Students use math skills to make decisions about paying off debt and to understand, interpret, and critically analyze newspaper articles and other media reports.

Many exercises will be especially relevant to incarcerated students, such as calculating the square footage of space available to inmates in correctional institutions. However, this workbook will be of use to any student interested in improving their math skills but secretly wondering, "What's the point?"

Math: What's the Point? is 125 pages and is bound with a plastic coil for use in correctional settings. It is available for \$15.00 per copy from the John Howard Society of Manitoba.

You can order copies by contacting Janet Johnson at 204-775-1514. View the rest of our workbook series online at www.johnhoward.mb.ca.



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FEATURES:

- Sixteen lessons and accompanying numeracy exercises
- Illustrations throughout, provided by incarcerated artists at the Winnipeg Remand Centre
- A review of basic numeracy concepts: estimation, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, percentages and measurements
- Exercises that mix math with other essential skills like reading, writing, document use, oral communication and critical thinking.
- A discussion of the elements of real-life math situations, including information-gathering, choosing the correct operation, interpreting findings, and making a decision.
- Answer key and guidelines for marking workbooks