✅ 1. Use a Calculator Efficiently

Key Points:

- Know where the basic function keys are (e.g., +, −, ×, ÷, √, %, x², 1/x, brackets).

- Use brackets to ensure the correct order of operations (BIDMAS/BODMAS).

- Understand how to recall previous answers using the ANS key.

- Learn how to navigate between different modes (e.g., normal, statistical, scientific).

Example 1: Calculate

$$\frac{8 + 6}{2 \times (4 - 2)}$$

Correct Steps:

- Use brackets:

  (8 + 6) ÷ (2 × (4 − 2))

  = 14 ÷ 4

  = 3.5

Tip: Always use brackets when typing grouped expressions.

✅ 2. Enter Values Appropriately on a Calculator

Key Points:

- Be careful with negative numbers (use the negative sign button `(-)` , not the subtraction `-`).

- For powers or square roots, use the `^` , `x²` , or `√` buttons.

- Enter fractions using the fraction button `a b/c` or use the division symbol for improper fractions

Example 2: Calculate

$$-3^2$$

and

$$(-3)^2$$

Incorrect input: `-3^2` gives `-9` (calculator does `-(3²)`)

Correct input: `(-3)^2` gives `9` (calculator squares the negative number)

Example 3: Evaluate

$$\frac{2}{5} + \frac{3}{4}$$

Input:

`(2 ÷ 5) + (3 ÷ 4)` or use the fraction button.

Output:

`1.15` or `23/20` (depending on mode)

✅ 3. Interpret the Calculator Display Appropriately

Key Points:

- Understand when the calculator gives a rounded or recurring decimal.

- Interpret `E` as scientific notation (e.g., `3.5E6` means 3.5×10^6).

- Know when to round or convert to fractions/percentages.

- Know how to switch between decimal and fraction using `S⇔D` key.

Example 4: Calculator display shows:

`0.6666666667`

Interpretation:

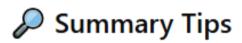This is a recurring decimal $\approx \frac{2}{3}$

Example 5: Calculator displays:

`2.4E7`

Interpret as:

$$2.4 \times 10^7 = 24,000,000$$

Tip: Use the `S⇔D` button to toggle between decimal and fraction form when appropriate.

🔍 Summary Tips

Skill	What To Do
Brackets	Always use for grouped expressions
Negative Numbers	Use the correct negative key `(-)`
Fractions	Use `a b/c` or divide carefully
Display Interpretation	Recognize decimals, fractions, scientific
Rounding & Approximation	Round only when asked; state correct figures