

WPLN Numeracy Practice — 20 Questions with Full Answers

Free printable practice for the Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN) test · Singapore · September 2026

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How to use this worksheet. Work through the 20 questions on the next pages — there is a line under each one for working out. Then check the answer key, which shows the full working for every question and names the mistake people most often make on it. Going through the *common slip* notes is usually worth more than getting the answer right first time.

Who it is for. Anyone preparing for the WPLN numeracy paper, and the parents, carers and teachers helping them. It was written by a Singapore parent preparing his own son, so the questions use everyday local situations — hawker centres, bus fares, shift hours, NTUC prices.

Part 1 — The questions

Take your time. A calculator is not needed for any question here.

QUESTION 1 · MONEY — TOTALLING A BILL

At a hawker centre Mei buys chicken rice for \$4.50, an iced kopi for \$1.80 and a kaya toast set for \$3.20. How much does she spend altogether?

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QUESTION 2 · MONEY — CHANGE FROM A NOTE

Mei pays for her \$9.50 meal with a \$20 note. How much change should she get?

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QUESTION 3 · MONEY — REPEATED BUYING

A packet of rice crackers costs \$1.35. Raj buys 3 packets. What is the total cost?

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QUESTION 4 · MONEY — WHICH IS BETTER VALUE

A 500 ml bottle of drink costs \$1.60. A 1.5 litre bottle of the same drink costs \$4.20. Which one costs less per litre?

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QUESTION 5 · MONEY — A PERCENTAGE DISCOUNT

A pair of shoes costs \$45. There is a 20% discount. What is the new price?

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QUESTION 6 · TIME — START TIME PLUS A DURATION

Raj's bus leaves at 7:45 am. The journey takes 35 minutes. What time does he arrive?

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QUESTION 7 · TIME — WORKING OUT HOURS WORKED

Siti's shift runs from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, with a 45 minute unpaid lunch break. How many hours does she actually work?

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QUESTION 8 · TIME — CROSSING THE HOUR

A movie starts at 2:15 pm and runs for 1 hour 50 minutes. What time does it end?

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QUESTION 9 · TIME — READING A TIMETABLE PATTERN

Trains leave every 12 minutes. The first train is at 6:00 am. What time does the 5th train leave?

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QUESTION 10 · DECIMALS — PLACE VALUE

In the number 47.63, what is the value of the digit 6?

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QUESTION 11 · DECIMALS — ADDING

What is $12.5 + 3.75$?

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QUESTION 12 · DECIMALS — SUBTRACTING

What is $8.4 - 2.65$?

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QUESTION 13 · FRACTIONS — A FRACTION OF AN AMOUNT

What is $\frac{3}{4}$ of 60?

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QUESTION 14 · PERCENTAGE — PERCENTAGE OF AN AMOUNT

What is 25% of \$84?

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QUESTION 15 · MEASUREMENT — READING A RULER

A pencil is placed on a ruler. One end is at the 2 cm mark and the other is at the 11.5 cm mark. How long is the pencil?

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QUESTION 16 · MEASUREMENT — GRAMS AND KILOGRAMS

A bag of rice holds 5 kg. A recipe uses 250 g each time. How many times can the bag be used?

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QUESTION 17 · MEASUREMENT — AREA OF A ROOM

A room is 4.5 m long and 3 m wide. What is its area?

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QUESTION 18 · DATA — FINDING THE MEAN

A stall's takings from Monday to Friday were \$120, \$95, \$140, \$105 and \$90. What were the average daily takings?

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QUESTION 19 · WORD PROBLEM — SAVING UP

Danial saves \$12 every week. How many weeks will it take him to save \$150?

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QUESTION 20 · WORD PROBLEM — FRACTION OF A GROUP

There are 28 students in a class. $\frac{3}{7}$ of them take the bus to school. How many students do NOT take the bus?

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Part 2 — Answer key, with working

Check your answers here. Read the working even where you were right.

QUESTION 1 · MONEY — TALLING A BILL

Answer: \$9.50

Add the three prices: $\$4.50 + \$1.80 = \$6.30$. Then $\$6.30 + \$3.20 = \mathbf{\$9.50}$.

Common slip: A common slip is adding the dollars and cents separately and losing the carry from 50c + 80c.

QUESTION 2 · MONEY — CHANGE FROM A NOTE

Answer: \$10.50

$\$20.00 - \9.50 . Take away \$9 to get \$11.00, then take away the last 50c: **\$10.50**.

Common slip: Counting up from \$9.50 to \$20 works just as well, and is easier to do in your head.

QUESTION 3 · MONEY — REPEATED BUYING

Answer: \$4.05

$\$1.35 \times 3$. Three lots of \$1 is \$3, three lots of 35c is \$1.05. $\$3 + \$1.05 = \mathbf{\$4.05}$.

Common slip: $35c \times 3 = 105c$, which is \$1.05 — not 5c with the dollar forgotten.

QUESTION 4 · MONEY — WHICH IS BETTER VALUE

Answer: The 1.5 litre bottle (\$2.80 per litre vs \$3.20 per litre)

500 ml is half a litre, so the small bottle is $\$1.60 \times 2 = \3.20 per litre. The large bottle is $\$4.20 \div 1.5 = \2.80 per litre. **The 1.5 litre bottle is better value.**

Common slip: The bigger bottle costs more in total — but the question asks about cost *per litre*.

QUESTION 5 · MONEY — A PERCENTAGE DISCOUNT

Answer: \$36

20% of \$45 is $\$45 \div 5 = \9 . New price = $\$45 - \$9 = \mathbf{\$36}$.

Common slip: \$9 is the discount, not the price. The question asks what you actually pay.

QUESTION 6 · TIME — START TIME PLUS A DURATION

Answer: 8:20 am

From 7:45 it is 15 minutes to 8:00. That leaves $35 - 15 = 20$ minutes more, so **8:20 am**.

Common slip: $7:45 + 35$ is not 7:80. Time rolls over at 60 minutes, not 100.

QUESTION 7 · TIME — WORKING OUT HOURS WORKED

Answer: 7 hours 45 minutes

9:00 am to 5:30 pm is 8 hours 30 minutes. Take off the 45 minute break: $8 \text{ h } 30 \text{ min} - 45 \text{ min} = \mathbf{7 \text{ h } 45 \text{ min}}$.

Common slip: Forgetting to subtract the break gives 8 h 30 min — the most common error on pay questions.

QUESTION 8 · TIME — CROSSING THE HOUR

Answer: 4:05 pm

2:15 pm + 1 hour = 3:15 pm. Then + 50 minutes: 45 minutes takes you to 4:00 pm, and 5 minutes more makes **4:05 pm**.

Common slip: Adding 1.50 instead of 1 hour 50 minutes gives 3:65 — which is not a time.

QUESTION 9 · TIME — READING A TIMETABLE PATTERN

Answer: 6:48 am

The 1st train is at 6:00, so the 5th train is **4** gaps later, not 5. $4 \times 12 = 48$ minutes. **6:48 am**.

Common slip: Multiplying 5×12 gives 7:00 am. Count the gaps between trains, not the trains.

QUESTION 10 · DECIMALS — PLACE VALUE

Answer: 6 tenths (0.6)

After the decimal point the first place is tenths. The 6 sits there, so it means **6 tenths, or 0.6**. The 3 is 3 hundredths.

Common slip: Saying "6" or "6 hundredths" — position is what gives a digit its value.

QUESTION 11 · DECIMALS — ADDING

Answer: 16.25

Line up the decimal points and write 12.5 as 12.50. $12.50 + 3.75 = \mathbf{16.25}$.

Common slip: Lining the numbers up on the right instead of on the point turns 12.5 into 12.05.

QUESTION 12 · DECIMALS — SUBTRACTING

Answer: 5.75

Write 8.4 as 8.40 so both have two decimal places. $8.40 - 2.65 = \mathbf{5.75}$.

Common slip: Without the extra zero it is easy to take 2.65 from 8.04 by mistake.

QUESTION 13 · FRACTIONS — A FRACTION OF AN AMOUNT

Answer: 45

Divide by the bottom, multiply by the top. $60 \div 4 = 15$, then $15 \times 3 = 45$.

Common slip: Doing $60 \div 3 \times 4 = 80$ — the bottom number is the one you divide by.

QUESTION 14 · PERCENTAGE — PERCENTAGE OF AN AMOUNT

Answer: \$21

25% is the same as one quarter. $\$84 \div 4 = \21 .

Common slip: 25% does not mean "take off 25 dollars".

QUESTION 15 · MEASUREMENT — READING A RULER

Answer: 9.5 cm

Length is the difference between the two marks: $11.5 - 2 = 9.5$ cm.

Common slip: Reading off 11.5 cm — that is where the end sits, not how long the pencil is, because it did not start at 0.

QUESTION 16 · MEASUREMENT — GRAMS AND KILOGRAMS

Answer: 20 times

5 kg is 5000 g. $5000 \div 250 = 20$. Converting to the same unit first is the key step.

Common slip: Dividing 5 by 250 without converting — the units have to match before you divide.

QUESTION 17 · MEASUREMENT — AREA OF A ROOM

Answer: 13.5 m²

Area = length $\times$ width = $4.5 \times 3 = 13.5$ m².

Common slip: $4.5 + 3 = 7.5$ m is the wrong operation — that is halfway to the perimeter, not the area.

QUESTION 18 · DATA — FINDING THE MEAN

Answer: \$110

Add them: $\$120 + \$95 + \$140 + \$105 + \$90 = \550 . Then divide by the number of days: $\$550 \div 5 = \110 .

Common slip: Dividing by 7 because it feels like a week — divide by how many numbers you actually added.

QUESTION 19 · WORD PROBLEM — SAVING UP

Answer: 13 weeks

$\$12 \times 12 \text{ weeks} = \144 , which is not quite enough. After **13 weeks** he has \$156, so 13 weeks is the answer.

Common slip: $\$150 \div 12 = 12.5$, and you cannot save for half a week — round *up*, not down.

QUESTION 20 · WORD PROBLEM — FRACTION OF A GROUP

Answer: 16 students

$\frac{3}{7}$ of 28: $28 \div 7 = 4$, then $4 \times 3 = 12$ students take the bus. Those who do not: $28 - 12 = \mathbf{16 \text{ students}}$.

Common slip: Stopping at 12 — read the question again, it asks for the ones who do NOT take the bus.

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