

Junior Cert Algebra

Algebra is a topic in maths that uses letters to represent numbers.

Algebra was "invented" by the Muslim mathematician Al-Khwarizmi in the book he wrote in 820. Algebra is the Arabic word (aljabr) for "equation", and the word "algorithm" comes from the author's name, Al-Khwarizmi. He is known as "the father of Algebra", however many ancient civilizations developed some sort of algebraic methods of solving problems, as far back as the Babylonians (1800 - 1600 BC)

Why not have a closer look at "[The history of Algebra](#)".

So why do we have to learn algebra? Well, it teaches us problem solving skills and There are "[examples](#)" all around us of things in the everyday world that you could fully understand using only the tools in algebra.

In the Junior Cert exam Algebra is examined in question 2 and 3 on paper 1. Some of the Questions you might be asked are: "[Substitution](#)" which is when you have to evaluate expressions by replacing letters with values.

Simplifying Expressions involves expanding brackets and adding like terms. This "[game](#)" will help you understand this section and then you can test yourself using this "[quiz](#)"

"[Solving Equations](#)" is when you have to get a value for x as your answer.

"[Solving Inequalities](#)" is similar to solving equations but these questions will contain the $>$ and $<$ signs.

Questions on facorising expressions can be asked a number of different ways, try this [quiz](#) to see if you need to revise this topic.

You may be asked to form equations based on some information you will be given, try this "[site](#)" to help you master this topic.

With "[Simultaneous equations](#)" you have to find a value for 2 letters, normally x and y.

Now that you know all about Algebra why not have a look at some "[exam papers](#)"

