

Oral Mock Exam - How It Works

BFP Mathematics - Preparing for the Oral Examination

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The Oral Exam

Why an Oral Exam?

A second chance to show what you can do.

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- The written exam tests **speed and precision** under pressure
- The oral tests **understanding** - can you *explain* the maths?
- You talk through your reasoning; we listen to *how you think*

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 Tip

This is a conversation, not a written test. We *want* you to succeed.

The Format at a Glance

You will work on **two separate topics**.

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	Topic 1 - Block A	Topic 2 - Block B
Preparation	30 min , on-site	None - spontaneous
Subject	One area	<i>A different</i> area
You start by	Presenting	Discussing

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Both topics can come from the **whole course**.

The Timeline

1. **Preparation (30 min)**: You receive the Block A task + material and prepare notes
2. **Block A (~10 min)**: You **present** your solution, then we ask follow-up questions
3. **Block B (~10 min)**: We give you a new topic; a **discussion** develops

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Note

Only **Block A** is prepared. Block B is genuinely on the spot.

Block A: The Prepared Topic

Block A - Step by Step

You get a task sheet and 30 minutes.

- Work through the tasks; make **notes**, not a full script
- Then **present** in free speech - explain *what* you do and *why*
- Questions come **after** your presentation

Warning

Presentation quality counts too: structure, clarity, correct language.

Block A - What Good Looks Like

- A **clear structure**: state the goal, the method, then the result
- You **name the concepts** (“this is the break-even point because...”)
- You **interpret** results in context, not just numbers
- When asked, you can go **one step deeper** than your notes

Block B: The Spontaneous Topic

Block B - Step by Step

A new topic, no preparation.

- Deliberately a **different area** than Block A
- We start with a small prompt or question
- A **discussion** develops with follow-up questions
- Think out loud - we follow *your reasoning*, not just the answer

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Tip

Stuck? Say what you *do* know and how you’d approach it. That counts.

Assessment

The Three Requirement Levels

Every exam moves through three levels.

- **Level I - Reproduce:** recall facts and apply learned procedures
- **Level II - Apply:** transfer your knowledge to a comparable situation
- **Level III - Evaluate:** justify, interpret, and judge in a new situation

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We expect **all of Level I and II**, with **glimpses of Level III** for top marks.

How It Is Graded

Grade	Means
Sufficient (5 pts)	You pass - basics secure, on-task, organised
Good (11 pts)	Independent, connected, critical reflection

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! Important

You must reach at least **“sufficient” (5 points)** to pass.

Tools & Tips

What You May Use

- Writing paper - **provided**
- A calculator - **provided if needed**
- The questions are designed so that **no aids are really necessary**

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i Note

The examiner cares more about **what** you calculate than the arithmetic. Set up the *right* approach - the number is secondary.

Presenting Well

- Talk **from notes**, not a written-out text
- Open with the **goal**, then the **method**, then the **result**
- Use the **correct terms** - in German *and* English where you know them

- A wrong turn is fine: **notice it, correct it, move on**

How to Practise

Use the oral mock sets.

- Take a **Block A sheet**, give yourself **30 minutes**, then present out loud
- Have a partner ask the **follow-up questions** from the examiner key
- Then try a **Block B** topic cold - no preparation
- Rotate sets so every practice exam is **unseen**

You Are Ready For This

- You have **seen all of this material** before
- The oral rewards **understanding**, which you can build by talking it through
- Prepare Block A calmly; trust your reasoning in Block B

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Good luck - you've got this!