



Website: [contoureducation.com.au](http://contoureducation.com.au) | Phone: 1800 888 300  
Email: [hello@contoureducation.com.au](mailto:hello@contoureducation.com.au)

## VCE Specialist Mathematics ½ Logic & Algorithms I [2.4] Workbook

### Outline:



#### Algorithms

Pg 02-09

- Introduction to Algorithm
- Assigning Variables
- Flowchart
- Table of Values

#### Selections and Loops

Pg 10-18

- Selections
- Loops

#### Pseudocode

Pg 19-30

- Introduction to Pseudocodes
- Pseudocode for Selection
- Pseudocode for Loops
- Functions
- Lists

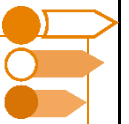
### Learning Objectives:

- ❑ SM12 [2.4.1] - Write and understand basic algorithms
- ❑ SM12 [2.4.2] - Understand and evaluate algorithms that have conditional statements and represent hybrid functions as algorithms
- ❑ SM12 [2.4.3] - Understand and evaluate algorithms with loops
- ❑ SM12 [2.4.4] - Write and evaluate functions using pseudocode



## Section A: Algorithms

### Sub-Section: Introduction to Algorithm



*What is an algorithm?*



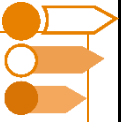
#### Algorithm



▶ An algorithm is a clearly specified \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Question 1

Write down the steps necessary (i.e., create an algorithm) to do proof by contrapositive.



## Sub-Section: Assigning Variables



### Assigning Variables

- To construct algorithms for more mathematical/complex problems, \_\_\_\_\_ variables will be useful.
  - 🔄 E.g.,  $A \leftarrow 3$  assigns the **value 3** to the **variable A**.
- We can also \_\_\_\_\_ our variables using the arrow.
  - 🔄 E.g.,  $A \leftarrow A + 3$  assigns the value  $A + 3$  to the **variable A**.
  - 🔄 Since the value of  $A$  was already 3, its new value will be 6.

### **Question 2 Walkthrough.**

For the following algorithm, evaluate the final output of the algorithm.

Step 1.  $A \leftarrow 3$

Step 2.  $A \leftarrow A + 2$

Step 3.  $A \leftarrow 2A - 1$

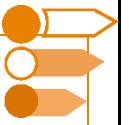
Step 4: Print  $A$ .

**Question 3**

Construct an algorithm that doubles any input given.

Space for Personal Notes

## Sub-Section: Flowchart



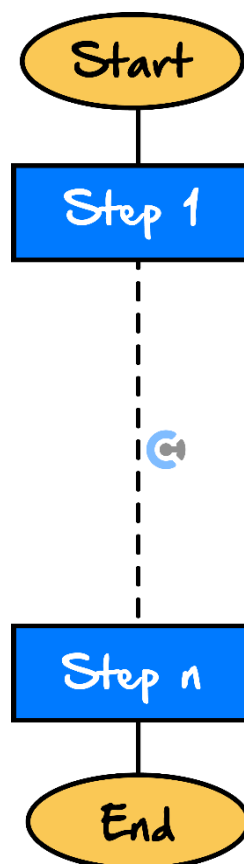
*How do we visualise the algorithm?*



### Flowcharts



➤ The visual way of representing the algorithm.



Space for Personal Notes

**Question 4 Walkthrough.**

Using a flowchart, describe an algorithm of the following hybrid function.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x - 2, & x > 0 \\ 2x - 3, & x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

Space for Personal Notes

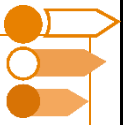
**Question 5**

Using a flowchart, describe an algorithm of the following hybrid function.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 5x - 1, & x > 2 \\ \frac{1}{3}x - 1, & x \leq 2 \end{cases}$$

Space for Personal Notes

## Sub-Section: Table of Values



*How do we track the value of the variables?*



### Table of Values



► Used to check if the algorithm works by following the steps one by one.

	Variable (s)
Step 1	Value 1
.	.
.	.
.	.
Step $n$	Value $n$

### Question 6 Walkthrough.

Consider the following algorithm.

Step 1:  $A \leftarrow 2$  and  $B \leftarrow 3$

Step 2:  $A \leftarrow 2A + 4$  and  $B \leftarrow 2B - 1$

Step 3:  $A \leftarrow B$

Perform a desk check (construct the table of values) for the values of  $A$  and  $B$ .



### Question 7

The following algorithm was intended to swap the values of two variables,  $A$  and  $B$ .

Step 1: *Input*  $A, B$

Step 2:  $A \leftarrow B$

Step 3:  $B \leftarrow A$

Step 4: *Print A, B*

- [illegible]

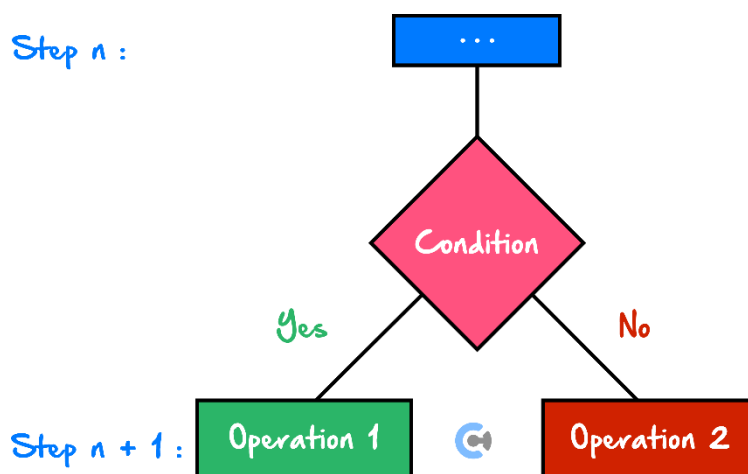
## Section B: Selections and Loops

### Sub-Section: Selections

**Discussion:** What could we do if we want to selectively perform an operation?

#### Selections

- Allows us to perform different operations at a given step depending on a certain condition.



- In other words, we are \_\_\_\_\_.
- Keywords for selection:

*If, then*

*Otherwise/Else/Else If*

➤ 'If ... then ...' instructions are used in algorithms to enable \_\_\_\_\_ to be made within the algorithm.

- Selection is similar to how \_\_\_\_\_ work in both Mathematical Methods and Specialist Maths.
- Doing different operations (equations) depending on the condition (domain).

**Question 8 Walkthrough.**

Construct a table of values for the following algorithm.

Step 1:  $n \leftarrow 2$

Step 2: ***If***  $n$  is even, ***then***  $T \leftarrow 3n + 5$   
***Otherwise***  $T \leftarrow n + 5$

Step 3:  $n \leftarrow n + 3$

Step 4: *Print*  $n, T$ .

Space for Personal Notes

**Question 9 Tech-Active.**

Following is an algorithm for calculating the Australian tax.

Step 1: *Input income*

Step 2a: *If income  $\leq 18200$ , then tax  $\leftarrow 0$*

Step 2b: *Else If income  $\leq 37000$ , then tax  $\leftarrow 0.19 \times \text{income} - 3458$*

Step 2c: *Else If income  $\leq 90000$ , then tax  $\leftarrow 0.325 \times \text{income} - 8453$*

Step 2d: *Else If income  $\leq 180000$ , then tax  $\leftarrow 0.37 \times \text{income} - 12503$*

Step 2e: *Else If tax  $\leftarrow 0.45 \times \text{income} - 26903$*

Step 3: *Print tax*

Calculate the tax for \$75000.

Space for Personal Notes

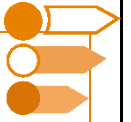
**Question 10**

Turn the following hybrid function into an algorithm.

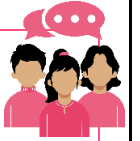
$$f(n) = \begin{cases} 1 - 2n, & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ 4, & \text{if } n = 5 \\ 2n + 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Space for Personal Notes

## Sub-Section: Loops



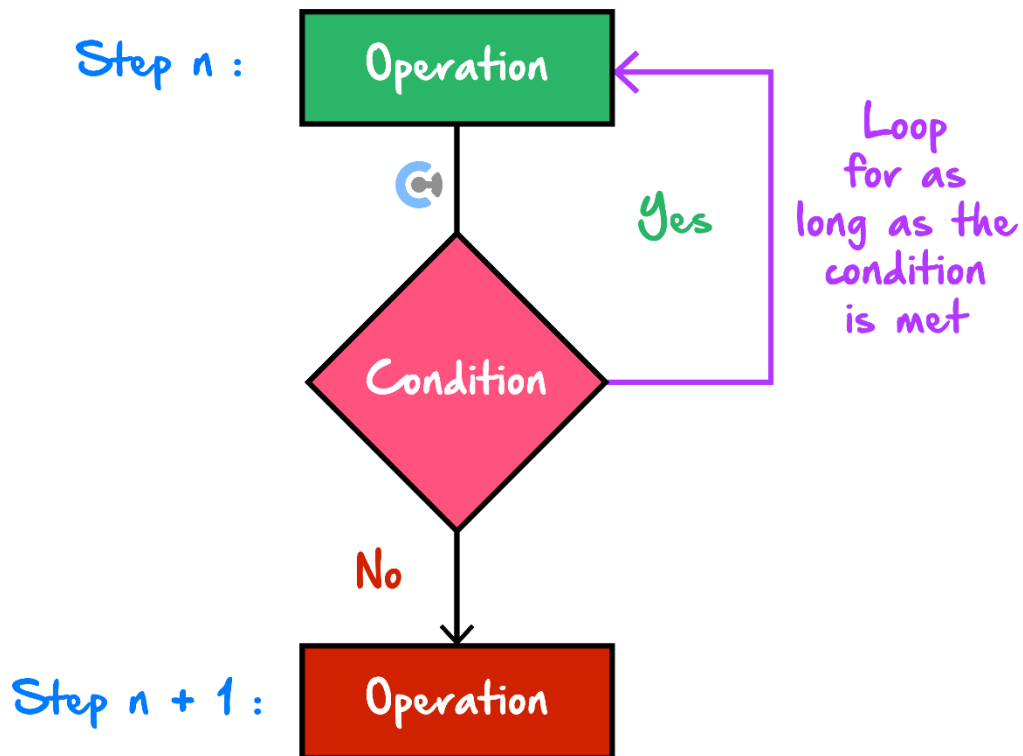
Discussion: What do we do if we want to do something repeatedly?



### Loops (Iterations)



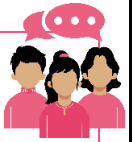
- Iteration (looping) allows us to repeat steps in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_. We only repeat when a \_\_\_\_\_ is met.



- Keywords for iterations:

*Repeat ... For...*

*Repeat ... while...*



**Discussion:** What are the differences between for and while loops?



**Analogy:** Your parents taking care of you.

➤ Consider the two parents below.

 Parent 1:

*I'll take care of you for the next 10 years!*

 Parent 2:


*I'll take care of you while you are not married!*

- For which parent do we exactly know how many years they will take care of us?
- Hence, which parent is a for loop and which parent is a while loop?




**For v/s While Loop**

➤ For Loop

 We know how many iterations will happen.

➤ While Loop

 We don't know how many loops will happen.

**Question 11 Walkthrough.**

Create a table of values for the following algorithm.

Step 1.  $A \leftarrow 10$  and  $n \leftarrow 0$

Step 2.  $A \leftarrow 2A$  and  $n \leftarrow n + 2$

Step 3. **Repeat** from step 2 **while**  $n < 5$

Space for Personal Notes



**Question 12**

Construct an algorithm that outputs the largest power of 3 that is less than 1000.

**NOTE:** We use a while loop here as we do not know straight away how many loops this will take.



Space for Personal Notes

**Question 13**

Consider the following algorithm:

Step 1.  $A \leftarrow 87$

Step 2.  $A \leftarrow 2A - 1$

Step 3. **Repeat** from step 2 **while**  $A > 50$

What is the problem with this algorithm?

Space for Personal Notes

## Section C: Pseudocode

### Sub-Section: Introduction to Pseudocodes

#### Pseudocode

```

if condition then
    operation 1
else
    operation 2
end if
    
```

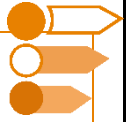
- "Pseudo" = fake, so pseudocode = fake code.
- Concise way of representing algorithms.

#### Pseudocodes: Indentation (Spacing)

- For pseudocodes, the placement of codes is important.
- For every rabbit hole of codes, we fall into, we write out codes more towards the **right direction**.
  - 🔄 For every rabbit hole of codes, we come out of, we write out codes back towards the **left direction**.
  - 🔄 A rabbit hole of codes can be loops, selections, etc.

Space for Personal Notes

## Sub-Section: Pseudocode for Selection



### Pseudocode: Selections (If, Else, Else if, Then)

- "If-then" allows us to perform operations when a certain condition is met.

```

if condition then
    operation
end if
    
```

- "Else" provides an opportunity to perform a different operation when a condition is **NOT** met.

```

if condition then
    operation 1
else
    operation 2
end if
    
```

- "Else if" provides an opportunity to add multiple pathways each with different conditions.

```

if condition 1 then
    operation 1
else if condition 2 then
    operation 2
else
    operation 3
end if
    
```

**Question 14 Walkthrough.**

Evaluate the final output from each of the following:

```
x ← 7
if x < 15
    x ← x + 10
else
    x ← x - 10
print x
```

Space for Personal Notes

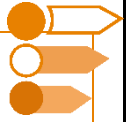
**Question 15**

Evaluate the final output from each of the following:

```
a ← 1
b ← 2
if a + b < 5
    b ← b + 5
    a ← a - 1
end if
print a, b
```

Space for Personal Notes

## Sub-Section: Pseudocode for Loops



### Pseudocode: Iterations (For Loops, While Loops, and Nested Loops)

**For Loops:** It is a loop that increases the variable by 1 each time it loops.

Variable moved from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ by 1.

```
for variable from lower bound to upper bound
    condition
    operation
end for
```

➤ **While Loops:** It is a loop that does **NOT** change the value of a variable by default.

To change the value of the variable, it needs to be described in the \_\_\_\_\_ section.

Without this, we can create an \_\_\_\_\_.

```
while condition
    operation
end while
```

➤ **Nested Loop:** We can have a loop happening within another loop.

The first pass of the outer loop starts the inner loop, which executes to completion. Then the second pass of the outer loop starts the inner loop again. This repeats until the outer loop finishes.

```
for var 1 from lower 1 to upper 1
    for var 2 from lower 2 to upper 2
        operation 2
    end for
    operation 1
end for
```

➤ Example of a Nested Loop: Minutes and seconds.

**Declare integer seconds, minutes**

**For minutes = 0 to 59**

**For seconds = 0 to 59**

**Output "", seconds**

**Next For**

**Next For**

### Question 16 Walkthrough.

Evaluate the final output from each of the following:

```
total ← 0
for i from 1 to 3
    total ← total + i
end for
print total
```

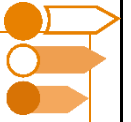


**Question 17**

Evaluate the final output from each of the following:

a.  $a \leftarrow 5$   
 $b \leftarrow 7$   
**while**  $a + b < 15$   
     $b \leftarrow b - 1$   
     $a \leftarrow a + 2$   
**end while**  
print  $a, b$

b.  $c \leftarrow 0$   
**for**  $a$  **from** 1 **to** 2  
    **for**  $b$  **from** 1 **to** 2  
         $c \leftarrow c + ab$   
    **end for**  
**end for**



## Sub-Section: Functions



### Function

- Think of a function as a bag of algorithms.

Instead of saying “an algorithm for picking the largest prime number smaller than  $n$ ”, we can save this algorithm as  $f(n)$ .

- Using functions allows us to easily change the input of the algorithm.
- By incorporating functions within another algorithm, it allows us to have an \_\_\_\_\_.

- By simply mentioning the function within the pseudocode, we can incorporate another algorithm.

```
define function(input):  
    follow these instructions  
    return output
```

### **Question 18 Walkthrough.**

Construct a pseudocode for a function named “*dist*” which calculates the distance between two points.

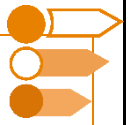
**NOTE:** Within the function, the two points can be defined as any arbitrary value.



### Question 19

Using pseudocode, define a function for finding each of the following:

- a.** The gradient of the line through two points  $(a, b)$  and  $(c, d)$ .
- b.** Number of solutions for a quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ .



## Sub-Section: Lists



### Lists

- Lists are merely a collection of values. More formally, it is defined as a finite sequence of values.


**$A \leftarrow [1, 3, 5, 7, 9]$ : Defines  $A$  as a list of odd numbers up to 10.**

- The notation  $A[n]$  spits out the " $n^{\text{th}}$ " value in the list. E.g.,  $A[3] = 5$ .
- To add more values to the list we can \_\_\_\_\_.

**Append 11 to  $A$  (From above)**

**Result:  $A = [1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11]$ .**

- Index:

-  The position of an entry in a list is called its index. In this book, we use 1 as the index of the first entry. However, most programming languages use 0 as the index of the first entry.

Space for Personal Notes

**Question 20 Walkthrough.**

Consider the algorithm below and evaluate the output.

```
A ← []  
for i from 1 to 10  
    if i < 8 then  
        append i to A  
    end if  
end for  
return A
```

Space for Personal Notes

**Question 21**

Consider the algorithm below and evaluate the output.

```
A ← []  
for i from 1 to 8  
    if i < 4 then  
        append 2i to A  
    else  
        append i − 2 to A  
    end if  
end for  
return A
```

Space for Personal Notes



## Contour Checklist

### ☐ Learning Objective: [2.4.1] - Write and Understand Basic Algorithms

#### Key Takeaways

##### Algorithm

- ☐ An algorithm is a clearly specified \_\_\_\_\_.

##### Assigning Variables

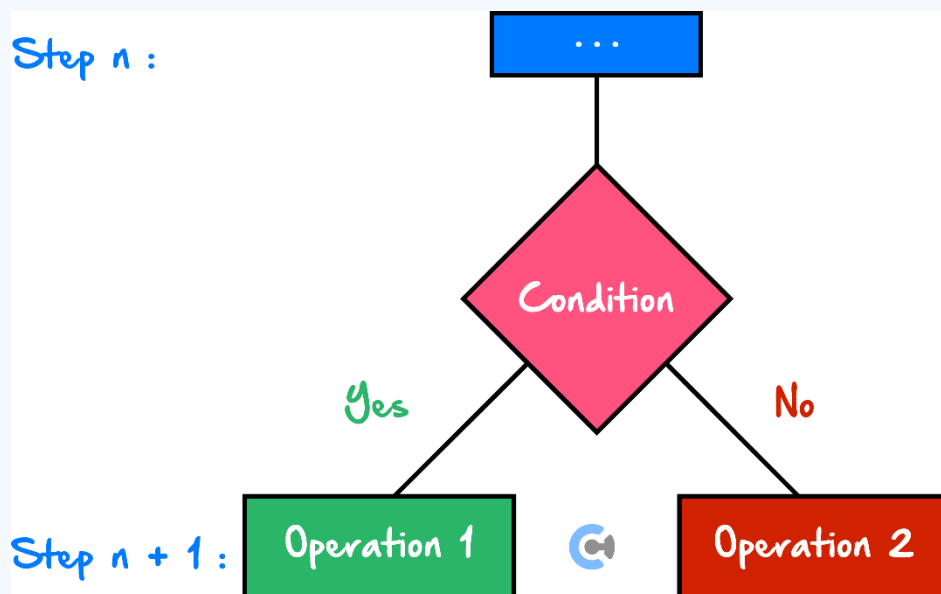
- ☐ To construct algorithms for more mathematical/complex problems, \_\_\_\_\_ variables will be useful.
  - ☐ E.g.,  $A \leftarrow 3$  assigns the **value 3** to the **variable A**.
- ☐ We can also \_\_\_\_\_ our variables using the arrow.
  - ☐ E.g.,  $A \leftarrow A + 3$  assigns the value  $A + 3$  to the **variable A**.

**Learning Objective: [2.4.2] - Understanding and Evaluate Algorithms that have Conditional Statements and Represent Hybrid Functions as Algorithms**

**Key Takeaways**

**Selections**

- Allows us to perform different operations at a given step depending on a certain condition.



- In other words, we are \_\_\_\_\_.

- Keywords for selection:

*If, then*

*Otherwise/Else/Else If*

- 'If ... then ...' instructions are used in algorithms to enable \_\_\_\_\_ to be made within the algorithm.

- Selection is similar to how \_\_\_\_\_ work in both Mathematical Methods and Specialist Maths.

- Doing different operations (equations) depending on the condition (domain).

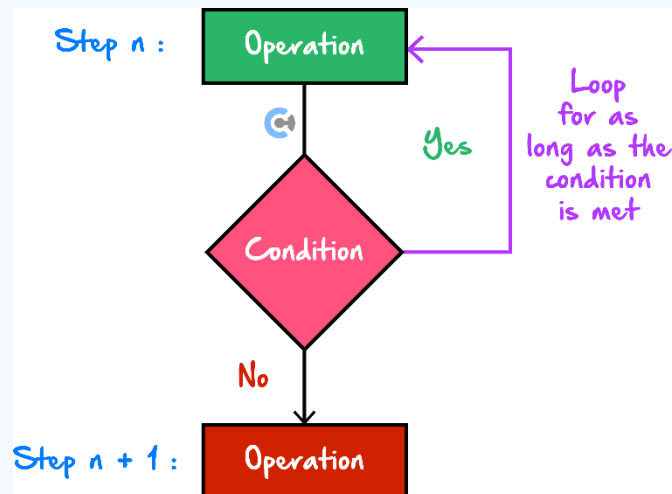


□ **Learning Objective: [2.4.3] - Understand and Evaluate Algorithms with Loops**

**Key Takeaways**

**Loops (Iterations)**

- Iteration (looping) allows us to repeat steps in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is controlled by the \_\_\_\_\_. We only repeat when a \_\_\_\_\_ is met.



- Keywords for iterations:

*Repeat ... For...*

*Repeat ... while...*

## □ Learning Objective: [2.4.4] - Write and Evaluate Functions Using Pseudocode

### Key Takeaways

#### Pseudocode

```

if condition then
    operation 1
else
    operation 2
end if
    
```

- "Pseudo" = fake, so pseudocode = fake code.
- Concise way of representing algorithms.

#### Function

- Think of a function as a bag of algorithms.

Instead of saying "an algorithm for picking the largest prime number smaller than  $n$ ", we can save this algorithm as  $f(n)$ .

- Using functions allows us to easily change the input of the algorithm.
- By incorporating functions within another algorithm, it allows us to have an \_\_\_\_\_.
- By simply mentioning the function within the pseudocode, we can incorporate another algorithm.

```

define function(input):
    follow these instructions
    return output
    
```



Website: [contoureducation.com.au](https://contoureducation.com.au) | Phone: 1800 888 300 | Email: [hello@contoureducation.com.au](mailto:hello@contoureducation.com.au)

## VCE Specialist Mathematics ½

# Free 1-on-1 Consults



### What are 1-on-1 Consults?

- **Who Runs Them?** Experienced Contour tutors (45 + raw scores and 99 + ATARs).
- **Who Can Join?** Fully enrolled Contour students.
- **When Are They?** 30-minute 1-on-1 help sessions, after-school weekdays, and all-day weekends.
- **What To Do?** Join on time, ask questions, re-learn concepts, or extend yourself!
- **Price?** Completely free!
- **One Active Booking Per Subject:** Must attend your current consultation before scheduling the next. :)

**SAVE THE LINK, AND MAKE THE MOST OF THIS (FREE) SERVICE!**



### Booking Link

[bit.ly/contour-specialist-consult-2025](https://bit.ly/contour-specialist-consult-2025)

