

# ALGEBRA 1C

2011-2012

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Text: Saxon – Algebra 1

## Course Description and Structure

Algebra I is designed to prepare students for future success in Algebra II, Trigonometry, Physics, and Calculus. This course will introduce and reinforce skills and concepts that will be used in future mathematical endeavors. Throughout the year, students will transition from concrete (known values) to the abstract (unknowns).

Students will have daily homework as well as quizzes and tests throughout the year to monitor mastery of the course objectives. The homework will be collected and graded. Homework will be returned promptly for appropriate revisions to be made.

## Revisions, Retakes, and Grading

Students will have one class period to work on test revisions, and then it is up to the student to complete them and return them to the tutor.

A test with a grade below 80% will be retaken until mastery of the course objective is shown; the retake will not replace the original test grade. The original test grade will be entered into the grade book, and once a student has fully revised the original test, they can retake. Once a retake is completed, the revised test grade will be entered, along with a retake test grade. Test revisions *will not* be entered into the grade book until the retake is completed. Students have until the next test to revise and retake. A test grade of 80% or higher is revised and not retaken. Students who do not need to retake have until the next test to turn in test revisions, otherwise they will not be accepted. All revisions are to earn back 70% of the missed points.

Typically homework assignments are worth 30 points. If the practice problems are not completed students will lose 3 points off of their assignment. Late work is 3 points for every day late. After 2 weeks, a late assignment will only be accepted for at most half credit. Odd answers and practice problem answers are in the back of the book, if an odd problem is missed, no partial credit will be given. Homework revisions are to be completed to earn back 70% of missed points. Homework/Quiz Revision checkpoints will be at mid-semester and semester. Once a checkpoint has passed, assignments from that period are no longer revisable.

Students with an excused absence will have as many days as they were absent plus one to make-up an assignment. If a student misses two days, he/she will have three days to turn in make-up work and after that it will go into the late work policy.

## Daily Assignments and Participation

Daily assignments involve students coming to class with homework ready to turn in at the beginning of class. Homework questions should be answered before a student comes to class. Students should then be prepared to have a short discussion and/or pop quiz over the

new lesson. I will answer any questions that arose about the new topic and do examples for those feeling uncertain. The new lesson should have already been read and the practice problems at least attempted for to practice comprehension. A participation grade will be taken each day based on the student's preparedness for class, attitude in class, and work/focus in class. Bonus participation points may be given at the tutor's discretion.

## **Working Ahead**

Some students may have the desire to work ahead in class. This is a welcome activity! Students can always work ahead and turn in lessons early. If a student ever feels as though there is not enough challenge in assignments or classroom, please feel free to speak with me so that we can help that student feel challenged and successful! Typically in a school year we will not complete the entire Saxon textbook, but if a student has that desire to complete the book or near complete it - please come talk to me early on in the school year about how we can make that happen. I would love to encourage students to work hard and achieve their goals!

## **Golden Ticket Policy**

Golden tickets are earned by students for their afternoon and lunch duty work. A student CANNOT use a golden ticket for a test. A golden ticket can be used for 10 points extra credit on a test, to get excused from a quiz, or to get a perfect score on a homework assignment where the only problems completed are the problems relating to the new lesson. Only one golden ticket will be accepted per semester. If other ideas arise for golden ticket opportunities, please feel free to speak with me.

## **Extra Credit**

Extra credit will be offered throughout the year in various forms: take-home assignments, questions on a test or quiz, and in-class games. A student will ONLY be considered for additional extra credit opportunities if they take advantage of every opportunity provided in class, as well as, revisions are completed regularly.

## **Calculator Policy**

Calculators are wonderful tools that students should use with caution. I will not prevent a student from using calculators on homework assignments, but calculators will NOT be allowed on tests or quizzes. Occasionally a question will arise on a test that I will allow students to use a calculator for, but this will not occur until the second semester.

## **Course Requirements**

1. Students are expected to be in class on time ready to start with all supplies and assignments.
2. Students should have homework prepared to turn in on-time, otherwise it will be penalized.
3. Students will participate in class through discussions, note-taking, and following tutor instruction.
4. A notebook will be kept by each student to organize notes, homework, and returned papers.
5. Students should be respectful at all times towards their peers and tutor.

## **Office Hours**

I encourage students and parents to meet with me about any concerns. Parents are more than welcome to contact me via phone or e-mail to find out about their students' progress, grades, etc. Students should come to me as soon as they realize they are struggling with a particular concept. I want to help every student in the best way possible for their success in my class!

## **Grading**

Participation	20%
Homework & Quizzes	20%
Tests	60%

## **Mastery with Honor**

I encourage all students to challenge themselves and set a goal to achieve Mastery Qualifying for Honors (MQ) by the end of the fall semester. To do so, an average of 92.5% or higher must be maintained throughout the fall semester. If a student achieves MQ at the end of the first semester, the student is eligible to complete a Mastery with Honors (MH) project to obtain Mastery Honors.

## **Supplies**

Pencil & Eraser (no ink)  
Red Pen or Pencil for correcting  
College Ruled Loose Leaf Notebook Paper  
Graphing Paper  
Two Pocket Folder  
3-Ring Binder (2) (1.5 in. size)  
One set of Dividers  
Ruler (metric and US)  
\*Please cover text book

## **Assignment for the First Day of Class**

- Read Lessons 1 – complete Lesson 1 problem set (problems 1-30 on page 3)
- Read Lesson 2
- Be ready to introduce yourself and discuss Lessons 1 & 2.
- Covered textbook - participation will be docked each day until this is completed.

\*If you would like to work ahead, you can read Lessons 3-5 and complete the practice problems and problem set for each.