



Calculator Policy – Effective September 1, 2006

British Columbia Ministry of Education

Calculators must be hand-held devices designed primarily for mathematical computations involving logarithmic and trigonometric functions, for graphing functions and for performing statistical tests. Computers, calculators with a QWERTY keyboard or symbolic manipulation abilities, such as the Computer Algebraic System (CAS) and electronic writing pads are not allowed. Students must not bring any external devices (peripherals) to support calculators such as manuals, printed or electronic cards, printers, memory expansion chips or cards, CD-ROMs, libraries or external keyboards. Students may have more than one calculator available during the examination. Calculators may not be shared and must not have the ability to either transmit or receive electronic signals. In addition to an approved calculator, students are allowed to use rulers, compasses, and protractors during the examination.

Calculators must not have any information programmed into the memory, which would not be acceptable in paper form.

Specifically, calculators must not have any built-in notes, definitions, or libraries. There is no requirement to clear memories at the beginning of the examination but the use of calculators with built-in notes is considered [cheating](#).
(<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/>)

Scientific calculators have a wide variety of functions. Graphing calculators have even more capabilities than scientific calculators. Students should consult with their subject area teachers to confirm what specific functions are required. The table below indicates both the minimum type of calculator that is required for a specific provincial examination, and whether or not a graphing calculator is permitted.

Provincial Examination	Calculator Type	
	Scientific	Graphing
Applications of Mathematics 10		R
Applications of Mathematics 12		R
Chemistry 12	R	NP
Essentials of Mathematics 10	R	P
Science 10	R	NP
Geology 12	R	P
Physics 12	R	P
Principles of Mathematics 10	R	P
Principles of Mathematics 12		R
Technical & Professional Communications	R	P

R = Required

P = Permitted

NP = Not Permitted