MAT Exam Technique – Summary (1 page; 7/10/21)

(A) Observation

- Use the answers (or the form of the answers)?

- Is there any symmetry?

(B) Experiment [A useful result often emerges.]

- Look for (useful) things are quick to do

- Try out particular values of (eg) n

- Start to list possibilities

- Rearrange expression / reformulate problem

- Consider a simpler version of the problem

(C) Standard Approaches

(i) Use a standard result (eg Pythagoras or Circle theorem)

(ii) Set up equation and solve

(iii) Break down into cases

- eg n even/odd or $x < 0, x = 0, x > 0$