

Basic Algebra & Patterns Quick Notes

Primary-level unknowns, expressions and simple equations.

P6

Number & Algebra - Basic Algebra

Prep before class. Practise after class. Fix mistakes. Track progress.

Important boundary

- Primary-level algebra only. No secondary-style algebra, quadratics or graphing functions.

Must-know skills

- Use a letter for an unknown number
- Understand $a + 3$, $a - 3$, $3a$, $a / 3$
- Simplify simple linear expressions without brackets
- Substitute values into simple expressions
- Solve simple linear equations with whole-number coefficients

Patterns

- Look at how numbers change.
- Find the rule.
- Use the rule to find missing terms.

Teacher Hidayah's steps

- Define what the letter means.
- Translate words into expression.
- Keep equation balanced.
- Check answer by substituting back.

Common mistakes

- Treating the letter as a label only
- Writing $3a$ as $3 + a$
- Substitution error
- Not checking the equation