

Constant Difference / Constant Total Guide

Spot the unchanged relationship before solving.

P5 / P6

Problem Sums - Heuristics

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

Core idea

- Some questions become easier when you spot what stays the same.

Constant difference

- Used when both quantities increase/decrease by same amount.
- The difference stays unchanged.

Constant total

- Used when something is transferred from one group to another.
- The total stays unchanged.

Teacher Hidayah's steps

- Ask: Is anything transferred? If yes, total may be constant.
- Ask: Did both change by same amount? If yes, difference may be constant.
- Draw comparison or before-after model.

Common mistakes

- Thinking all before-after questions use constant total
- Not checking whether something was transferred
- Using total when difference stayed constant

Practice cue

- If A gives B items, total stays same. If both receive same amount, difference stays same.