
Many students find Math 093 twice as hard as Math 089 and Math 091. Even though you cover only three chapters in Math 093, two of these are quite difficult – Chapters 9 and 11.

Here are some suggestions to help you do well in Math 093.

1. Make sure you have mastered necessary prerequisite topics. In particular, be sure you know these topics:
 - Exponents (Section 4.1 and 4.2): It will be difficult to make it through Chapters 9 and 11 if you don't understand and can't use the rules of exponents.
 - Factoring (Sections 5.1 – 5.6): Factoring is used in all three chapters of Math 093.
 - Squaring binomials without “foiling”: Be able to use the rules $(A + B)^2 = A^2 + 2AB + B^2$ and $(A - B)^2 = A^2 - 2AB + B^2$ to square binomials.
 - Never fall into the trap of thinking $(A + B)^2 = A^2 + B^2$ ← This is WRONG! You will be tempted by this many times in Math 093!
 - Memorize the first 12 perfect-square numbers, the first 5 perfect-cube numbers and the first 4 perfect-fourth-power numbers. Also, make sure you know your multiplication facts up to 12 times 12. Otherwise, it will take you too long to do the simplification problems in sections 9.1 – 9.4.
2. Be very careful in Chapter 9! The problems in this chapter look so easy when your teacher does them, but when you try them you can get confused easily. After a few sections of the chapter all of the problems begin to look alike. You must keep up with the material, do and understand all of your homework and outline the various types of problems and concepts in the chapter. Otherwise, you will get confused, not know which rules to use on which problems and will not know when to stop a problem. Don't let anything slide in this chapter! Get help as soon as you need it and make sure you understand each day's lesson.
3. Do not for any reason miss the class lessons on Sections 9.1 - 9.3, 10.2 and 11.5. In particular, if you miss the Section 11.5 lesson, you will be completely lost for the rest of Chapter 11.
4. Stop part way through each chapter (I suggest at sections 9.5, 10.5, 11.3 and 11.7) and honestly evaluate your knowledge. Ask your teacher if he/she can show you problems in the chapter review and chapter test that you can use to test your knowledge. If you find any weak spots, ask your teacher for help right away.