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# Building the Future – the ABQ way

ABQ Education Group – The first K-12 education operator in Oman

**MUCAT:** We all know that there are no shortcuts to sustainable success. Two young minds that understand this perfectly well are Rawnaq and Najat, two of the A level students at ABQ Seeb International School. They started the final two years of their pre-university education earlier this academic year and have just had the results of their first component in mathematics. Both achieved an A - the highest possible grade at this level.

**How did you react when you got the results?**  
"It shocked me", Najat confines, "as it was a new syllabus, with a content and format quite different from those of the previous years. I was a bit afraid after the exam, but I was crying with excitement when the results came out."

"I was confident before the exam", Rownaq adds, "and quite frankly I expected a good result with all the efforts I made. Nonetheless I was really stressed before the results were published, but now I am just happy with the grade I achieved."

**What were your key success factors?**

"The dedication and time spent on mathematics" both of them say. "Also the target we set out to achieve at the beginning of the year was crucial" they agree. "Above all, however, is the school and the teacher's input. We could not have done this without Mahinur, and because of that we got her roses today. During our semester break, every day for two weeks, she spent 8 hours with us at school." says Rownaq. Najat adds that "we had very low scores in first mock exam we did, but then day by day they did better, and our confidence grew."

"I was actually happy to work during our vacation" Najat adds. "Otherwise I would be at home thinking about the upcoming exam and worrying about it. For many, 8 hours of mathemat-



ics per day for two weeks might sound long and boring, but it really wasn't. We are a small and close-knit group, with a close relationship with our teacher. The hours and days flew past, because we were so centered on the work we were doing. The classes were not strict. There was a lot of laughter and enjoyment."

"We must also not forget last year's efforts at Seeb school" they say. "The teacher's support and determination on us achieving the best we could was shown through the compulsory Saturday and afterschool support classes, which build our confidence over time. These classes were streamed according to our abilities, and her

knowledge of our performance. As our IGCSEs were our first international examinations, they were rather intimidating, and though we were secure with what we had learnt, were still anxious during the exam itself. The high grades we achieved, despite the fear, enabled us to comfortably sit our AS exam, knowing that with all the effort we had put



in, we were bound to succeed." The school provided us with an accumulation of every single past paper from the past 5 years, in addition to files of topic questions, to ensure we were familiar with the structure of the questions as well as our weaknesses.

**How will this result affect your further studies?**

"This has been a huge boost for me. I will now work even harder to get even better grades next time around", Rownaq says. Najat agrees, and adds that "I will do so, not only in mathematics, but all the other subjects as well." "We will use this as a motivation for achieving similar results across our Alevels" they both agree.

They have both started planning their university studies and are confident they can achieve the grades required. "I want to study architecture", Najat says. "I will work on my portfolio, and I dream of joining MIT, University of Cambridge, UCL or Cardiff University, all among the world's top universities for architecture.

I am confident I can achieve the minimum entry requirements in terms of grades she says, and then we will see where that takes me."

Rownaq wants to do an engineering course, "either Industrial Engineering or Design Engineering. The latter is at the top of my list, and I am hopeful of getting admitted to Imperial College London. Ideally, I would like to combine it with Business Studies" she says.

Nereah, their mathematics teacher from last year, also adds that "Rownaq and Najat's excellence in Mathematics is driven by talent and devotion to set task. The two students are known to work collaboratively with others, resourcefully and creatively to enhance their performance. Their zeal not only made them top students but also helped encourage and motivate fellow students"

Regardless of where the two end up, they both seem to have understood that there is no substitute to hard work, nor any short cuts, if you want to achieve success...  
**The ABQ Way.**

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