

Year 7 Maths VIVA Revision Sheet

Collecting Like Terms

🎯 What do I need to know?

For this VIVA, you must be able to:

- Explain what like terms are
- Collect (combine) like terms correctly
- Explain why some terms cannot be collected



🤔 What are like terms?

Like terms have:

- ✓ The same letter
- ✓ The same power

✅ Like terms:

- $3x$ and $7x$
- $5a$ and $-2a$
- $4y^2$ and $10y^2$

✗ Not like terms:

- x and x^2
- $3a$ and $3b$
- $5x$ and 5

👉 Letters and powers must match exactly

👉 How do I collect like terms?

Step-by-step:

- 1 Find the like terms
- 2 Add or subtract the numbers
- 3 Keep the letter part the same

Examples:

- $3x + 5x = 8x$
- $7a - 2a = 5a$
- $4x + 3y = \text{✗}$ (cannot be collected)



Key maths words to use

Try to say these in your VIVA:

- Term
- Like terms
- Coefficient
- Expression
- Simplify

Using maths words = higher marks

VIVA-style questions you might be asked

- What are like terms?
- Can you give an example and a non-example?
- Simplify: $4x + 3x - x$
- Why can't $2x$ and $2y$ be collected?



Quick practice

Try these out loud:

- 1 $6x + 2x = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
- 2 $10a - 4a + a = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$
- 3 $3x + 5y = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ (can/can't?)



Top tips for the VIVA

- ✓ Speak clearly
- ✓ Explain your thinking
- ✓ Mistakes are okay — try again
- ✓ Show understanding, not just answers

