MENTAL ARITHMETIC IN KAZAKHSTAN

Interactive Reading Worksheet • Grade 11 • Unit 3: The human brain

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Learning objective: I can understand an article about trends in teaching mental arithmetic.

Task 1. Choose the best answer. (Multiple choice)

Read the article and choose A, B or C. In Liveworksheets, set each item as a multiple-choice question.

1. What does mental arithmetic mainly involve?

■ A. Using calculators to solve difficult equations

■ B. Calculating sums without a calculator or computer

■ C. Memorising the history of numbers

2. How long does the mental arithmetic course described in the article take?

■ A. Eight months

■ B. Twelve months

■ C. Eighteen months

3. What tool do children initially learn to use?

■ A. An abacus

■ B. A smartphone

■ C. A computer

4. What happened to teaching methods in the 1960s?

■ A. Students returned to rote learning

■ B. Methods began to encourage understanding and mental calculation

■ C. Schools stopped teaching arithmetic

5. Why were some people worried about calculators and smartphones?

■ A. Children might lose basic calculation skills

■ B. Devices were too difficult to use

■ C. They made lessons longer

Task 2. True or False? (Choose T or F)

Decide whether each statement agrees with the article. In Liveworksheets, use a dropdown or a choice box for T/F.

6. The first records of simple arithmetic were found in ancient Egypt. **T / F:** _____

7. The Arabic numerals used today were first recorded in Europe. **T / F:** _____

8. Rote learning involved repeating calculations after the teacher. **T / F:** _____

9. The article says that all Kazakh teachers support mental arithmetic. **T / F:** _____

10. Experts believe education should develop more than fast calculation. **T / F:** _____

Task 3. Complete the sentences. (Gap filling)

Use the words from the box. Each word is used once. In Liveworksheets, make the gaps text-entry fields.

abacus • curriculum • rote learning • concentration • critical thinking • engaged

11. An _____ is one of the earliest tools used for calculations.

12. In the first half of the 20th century, arithmetic was often taught by _____.

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13. Mental arithmetic is now part of the _____ in education systems across the world.

14. The method is said to improve children's _____, observation and imagination.

15. Some parents report that their children have become more _____ in class.

16. Young people need to develop communication skills and _____, not only calculation skills.

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Task 4. Match the words with their meanings. (Matching)

Write the correct letter. In Liveworksheets, connect each word to its definition or use a matching exercise.

Word	Meaning
17. branch	A. learning by repeating information many times
18. perform	B. a part of a subject or area of knowledge
19. advocate	C. to do or carry out an action
20. approach	D. a person who publicly supports an idea
21. rote learning	E. a way of dealing with a task or problem

Task 5. Put the ideas in the order they appear in the article. (Ordering)

Number the events from 1 to 4. In Liveworksheets, use an ordering activity or dropdowns.

_____ A. Mental arithmetic becomes part of education systems around the world.

_____ B. The abacus is used as an early calculation tool in the course.

_____ C. New methods encourage students to understand how arithmetic works.

_____ D. Some people question the need to learn mental arithmetic because calculators are widely available.

Task 6. Find evidence in the text. (Short answer)

Answer in one or two complete sentences. In Liveworksheets, use an open-answer box or leave these for teacher assessment.

22. Give one benefit of mental arithmetic mentioned in the article.

_____

23. Give one concern about the way some students learn mental arithmetic.

_____

24. What skills, besides mathematical calculations, do young people need according to the final paragraph?

_____

Task 7. Your opinion. (Open response)

25. Do you think mental arithmetic should be taught at school? Give two reasons and refer to ideas from the article. (Write 3–4 sentences.)

_____

_____

_____

Self-assessment: I can identify the main ideas ■ I can find details ■ I can explain my opinion ■

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