

## **Common Communication Errors**

Remember that, on most tests, quizzes, assignments, etc., your work is being assessed for proper communication. Your communication skills should improve as the course progresses!

Avoid the following errors, and ask your teacher if you don't understand the issue:

- Any question not attempted – show that you can communicate some interpretation of the problem... don't leave anything blank if you have time to show your stuff!
- Not reducing fractions
- Not writing out the general formula/equation used, before substituting in values
- Failure to use the variable consistently and correctly
- Incorrect use of equal signs (solving an equation, versus simplifying an expression)
- Equal signs not lined up (vertical and straight)
- Missing a dot above an equal sign when the answer is approximated
- An unclear diagram or labeling
- Not rounding an answer off correctly as asked
- Failure to write in the units for any measurement
- Missing "Let statement" in a word problem
- Failure to label axes or scales on graphs, including units where required
- Failure to include arrows on graphs which "continue on" outside the grid.
- Missing "Therefore statement" in a word problem
- Failure to label the equation of the graph
- Spelling Errors
- Illegible handwriting (use pencil, since pen is not easy to erase!)
- Incorrect use of brackets
- Not placing round brackets around an ordered pair
- Incorrect writing of exponents (powers)
- Not using proper set notation – that is, { } brackets around a domain or range
- An angle of a triangle not properly labeled
- Writing an approximate answer when an exact answer is required (you may actually lose content marks for this, depending on the question)