

What is the difference between Shanghai and Singapore maths teaching?

Shanghai

Differences

- Strong emphasis on teacher-student interaction and engagement
- Focuses more on the abstract
- Teaching with variation
- Uses a higher variety of visualisations than the Singapore approach, making it more flexible
- Pedagogically designed to be rigorous and challenging
- Shanghai students achieve higher results in mathematics (see PISA results: 612 vs 573 on average score*)

Similarities

- An emphasis on whole-class teaching
- Central use of textbooks and learning materials

Singapore

- Teacher-centred approach, reinforced by exercises
- Focuses more on using visualisation to guide students
- Heavily relies on the CPA (concrete-pictorial-abstract) and bar model method