Math test called a success

(Continued from page 1)

tests, she said that the average time spent on the test was 49 minutes.

Because a test of this scale has never been given before at MIT, right now "the information is not very useful because we don't know what it means," Einders said. "But at the end of the year, if we look at a group and there seems to be some correlation between performance in physics and performance on the math diagnostic, we might be able to say something," she continued.

Brush-ups began last night

The first in a series of pre-calculus review sessions for freshmen began last night where 40 students were expected to attend the three-hour "Algebra Brush-Up" in 2-102. Brush-ups for trigonometry geometry, and logarithms will also be offered this week.

Students who received low scores in a particular subject were encouraged to attend the review session for that subject. In addition, the brush-ups were widely advertised and all freshmen were encouraged to attend.

The review sessions are divided into three-hour-long activities, with groups of four to six students working with a tutor on review modules that were prepared by the math department. There will be no lecturing "unless it is clear that a whole lot of students are stuck in one area," Einders said.

At the end of each session, tutors will evaluate whether the students need additional review sessions, Einders said.

Einders predicted that some students who were not interested in the tutoring sessions would stop by to pick up review modules and work on them on their own.

Many freshmen think the test was "a waste of time"

Although its organizers felt the test was worthwhile, many freshmen thought it was unimportant.

"It was a waste," said Wendy Geiger '95. "If you do well, your advisor doesn't say anything, and if you don't do well, your advisor says not to worry about it."

Gilbert R. Hernandez '95 agreed: "It was a waste of time. . . . I'm sure everyone here is capable of doing well on that test, it's just that they forgot the material."

Several freshmen also complained that they missed several questions because they had not memorized trigonometric identities and other formulas which could be easily looked up in a text book.

Not all freshmen shared this view, though. "I didn't think it was a waste," said Michael Evans '95. "I thought it was for a good reason. You have to know the math. It's good to offer refresher course. I wouldn't be motivated to review otherwise."

But few freshmen, even those who said they did poorly on the diagnostic test, said they wouldn't be going to the brush-ups. Sean Dotsin '95 said, "[The test] showed me that I was a little rusty, but I won't be going to the brush-ups -- I'll be starting in 18.01 anyway."

A new freshman climbs out of the pool to receive a token from sailing coach Harold Brown Jr., after passing the successful completion of the MIT swimming requirements and the small boat swim test. The Class of '95 took the swimming test last Friday at the Alumni Pool. Many also took the optional boat test.

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