Advanced calculator tasks

Approach: Independent   *Level:* Year 8

Resources: Calculator

Questions/instructions		*% responses* *y8*
1.	5607 3294 6358 +7286	22,545 84
2.	7146 −5438	1708 81
3.	6243 ×34	212,262 86
4.	16)3975	248.44 46
5.	$35.60 ×23	$818.80 68
6.	165)197000	1193.9393 44
7.	$73.5 \times 0.75=$	55.125 79
8.	$2000 \div 0.11=$	18,181,818 66

9. Kate bought a CD for $27.95, a book for $18.50, and some stationery for $6.75.

(a) What is the total cost? $53.20   83

(b) If Kate used a coupon for a 15% discount, how much would she have saved?   15% of 9(a)   10

10. Aroha and her mother are working out the cost of their trip to Disneyland. Here are their costs:

Aroha's air fares	$1180
Mother's air fares	$1795
Buses/taxis	$165
Hotel	5 nights at $139/night
Disneyland (2 days)	$335 total
Universal Studios	$185
Food	$270
Other shopping	$150

How much is the trip going to cost? $4775   47

11. Mark's school is earning money by collecting aluminium cans and selling them for recycling. There are 61 cans per kilogram. For each kilogram of cans, the school get $1.35.

How many cans will they need to collect to ear $1000 for the school?   45186   4

12. If x is the height of a Tyrannosaurus Rex in metres, its weight in kilograms will be approximately $37x^3$. Use this formula to calulate the weight of a 6 metre tall Tyrannosaurus Rex.   7992kg   2

Commentary

The year 8 students were less confident with division problems. They performed poorly on the percentage task in 9(b), and on the final two items, which were intended to challenge the most capable students. Elsewhere in our assessment, working without calculators, success rates were:

question 1: 67%   q2:65%   q3:37%   q4:14%   q5:31%.

Clearly students performed better using calculators for these items.