0.1 Students who are ahead

Having such a student can be a real boon if they are gifted teachers as well. If they have a good feel for how to explain things and help others, they will make your class run more smoothly than you can on their own. Even in this case, **avoid treating them in front of the class as a reliable source for right answers**. You don't want to create a situation where calling on them is tantamount to telling the class something yourself. It is OK though, to treat them as a reliable source for intelligent commentary.

If a student is obviously head and shoulders above the rest from Day 1, you may consider exempting them from the course. That is, if they can do the worksheets on their own then they can probably pass the exemption exam, go on to the next course, and leave you with a more homogeneous class. Recommend that they see the course coordinator for an exemption exam; everyone will benefit from this. Later in the semester this is less of a good idea, though I've done it.

Assuming "Einstein" stays in the class and is not self-policing, you need to keep an eye on Einstein's group to make sure that Einstein is not explaining things to the others before they have a chance to figure it out themselves. Let Einstein explain things at the board in situations where you know there will be some wrong or unclear stuff in the explanation. Make sure though, that you give Einstein as much encouragement for what was right and clear as you would another student. If Einstein is a loner and tends to work fast but not share with the others, that will probably work out fine. You can explicitly designate Einstein as a group of 1 next time, or simply allow a *de facto* group of 1 to form. Sometimes, you can try asking Einstein explicitly to figure out a hint to give the rest of the group as to how to proceed but that won't completely solve the problem for them. It will make Einstein summon up teaching skills that are worthwhile in general, so it's worth a try, but be aware that Einstein may not be capable of this. In any case, don't let students disparage themselves in comparison to Einstein. You can say, "I see, because Einstein solved this problem in 5 minutes and you can't, you're going to give up?"