

Route map through assessment

Course: Lifeskills Mathematics

Level: National 5

This document is intended to assist staff in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence.

The vision for the new national qualifications is to create assessment opportunities that follow and support learning and teaching. This follows the principles laid out in *Building the Curriculum 5* and makes assessment a natural part of learning and teaching.

This route map aims to signpost all of the relevant material that is available to support your subject. Your professional judgement is vital and the documents listed below are intended to support you in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess learners.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper for lifeskills mathematics and this is a good starting point as it provides support to help develop learning and teaching approaches that take forward the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence through Lifeskills Mathematics National 5.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq//nqresource_tcm4745507.asp?strReferringChannel=nationalqualifications&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-740884-64&class=l1+d158233

Lifeskills Mathematics National 5 course content

The main SQA lifeskills mathematics page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48102.html>, with pages specifically related to National 5 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47418.html>. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

The course specification can be found at

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_Mathematics_LifeskillsMathematics.pdf.

There are three units: Lifeskills Mathematics: Managing Finance and Statistics, Lifeskills Mathematics: Geometry and Measures, and Numeracy.

More detail on course coverage can be found in the course support notes.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_Mathematics_LifeskillsMathematics.pdf

Further mandatory information on course coverage is found on page 7 of the course assessment specification.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_Mathematics_LifeskillsMathematics.pdf

A course comparison for National 3 to National 5 is also available.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Lifeskills_Maths_Course_comparison.pdf



Course assessment

At National 5 added value will be assessed in a course assessment, which consists of two question papers. The course will be graded A–D.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_Mathematics_LifeskillsMathematics.pdf

Question papers

Paper 1: This is a non-calculator question paper that lasts for 50 minutes and is worth 35 marks. It is carried out under exam conditions and marked by SQA.

Paper 2: This is a calculator question paper that lasts for 1 hour 40 minutes and is worth 55 marks. It is carried out under exam conditions and marked by SQA.

In the course assessment added value focuses on breadth, challenge and application from across the units.

Specimen question paper and marking scheme:

Paper 1: http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/LifeskillsMathematicsPaper1SQPN5.pdf

Paper 2: http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/LifeskillsMathematicsPaper2SQPN5.pdf

Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Lifeskills Mathematics National 5 course but they can be taken independently. Unit support notes follow on from the course support notes.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_Mathematics_LifeskillsMathematics.pdf

Each individual unit also has a National 5 unit specification.

Each unit specification gives details of the outcomes and assessment standards.

Lifeskills Mathematics: Managing Finance and Statistics

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_LifeskillsMathematics_ManagingFinanceandStatistics.pdf

Lifeskills Mathematics: Geometry and Measures

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_LifeskillsMathematics_GeometryandMeasures.pdf

Numeracy

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_Numeracy.pdf

Learners must meet all the outcomes and assessment standards, and staff should read the documentation carefully. Evidence should be generated through learning and teaching. Assessment evidence can be drawn from a variety of activities and presented in a variety of formats. All of the evidence does not have to be generated from one activity but can be from several tasks and assessments carried out throughout the course. Learners should have access to resources to complete the assessment task and no time restrictions should be imposed. Staff should use their professional judgment when looking at the assessment evidence and ensure that minimum competency is met. They should undertake quality assurance regularly.

Three different ways of gathering evidence have been suggested by SQA. The most traditional approach is unit by unit. A combined approach links knowledge and understanding from two or more units together. Many staff will

move towards the portfolio approach as their confidence grows. Here evidence is gathered from everyday learning using key classroom tasks. Unit assessment support is kept on the SQA Secure website.

Verification

The verification process is designed to be supportive and not onerous.

Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a school in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across all schools.

Quality assurance: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html>.

Prior verification

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf

Staff who devise their own assessments can send them to SQA for prior verification, free of charge. This is only necessary where significant changes have been made to the unit assessment provided by SQA. It gives staff confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards.

Internal verification

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf

As a matter of course staff should be quality assuring their assessments by carrying out activities that they have always done for NABs, for example double marking and blind marking. A sample of learners' work should be marked by more than one member of staff in a department, and in single-person departments an arrangement should be made with another local authority school.

External verification

In lifeskills mathematics schools will submit a sample of learners' evidence for scrutiny by subject-specialist qualification verifiers. SQA intend that every school will be verified over the first few years. Verification will take place in November, February and May. Twelve samples will be asked for.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

Schools must retain the evidence until 31 July of each academic year.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_Evidence_retention_requirements_A3_table.pdf

Key messages from verification will be put up on the SQA website.

Recognising positive achievement

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Recognising_Positive_Achievement_N4N5.pdf

This is only applicable to National 5, **not** Higher. A learner who achieves 'No Award' in a National 5 course assessment will be able to gain a National 4 course award as long as he/she has passed all the internally assessed units of the National 5 course **and** has passed the National 4 Added Value Unit.

Results services

http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/FA6669_SQA_Results_Services_A5_8pp_brochure_web.pdf

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html>

There are no longer any appeals. SQA offers two services: (1) Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (within ten days of sitting external assessment) and (2) Post Results Service. The latter consists of either a clerical check or a marking review. It is likely that these will be carried out in conjunction with the school SQA co-ordinator.

Education Scotland support materials

Advice and support for new national qualifications (Glow password required):

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/mathematics/coursematerials.asp>

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/mathematics/learningandteaching.asp>

Other useful websites

A quick guide to finding vital information about Curriculum for Excellence:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/keycfesupport/index.asp>

This appears under three headings

- the latest guidance, updates and plans for embedding Curriculum for Excellence
- information on assessment
- information on the new qualifications.

The BBC has pulled together all its learning content in a new Knowledge and Learning Beta site that includes Class Clips:

www.bbc.co.uk/education

The Bitesize websites have also been updated for National 5:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zb27hyc>