

Calculating learners' scores Numerical Reasoning Tests Years 7–9

National Numeracy Tests

2017



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this booklet is to enable schools to convert raw scores from the tests to age-standardised scores and progress measures where these have not been collected via the Welsh National Tests Data Collection (WNTDC). This will be relevant for independent schools. It will also be relevant where a learner has taken a test outside of the test window or an out-of-year test for diagnostic purposes.

Please note: only progress measures can be calculated for learners taking out-of-year tests.

Calculating learners' scores from national tests

The age-standardised scores and the progress measures were established using the data submitted by all schools in Wales with learners who had taken the 'live' numerical reasoning tests in April/May 2017.

Age-standardised scores

The age-standardised score scales make it possible to compare an individual learner's performance on the test in 2017 with the performance of all other learners of the same age, in years and completed months, taking the test.

Age-standardised scores are adjusted for age.

Working out age at date of test

You can use the 'age calculator' tool at learning.gov.wales/resources/browse-all/reporting-and-interpreting-national-test-results-2017/?lang=en to calculate age at date of test using the learner's date of birth and the date on which the test was taken. This will give you the learner's age in years and completed months.

Working out an age-standardised score

To work out the age-standardised score for an individual learner you will need:

- their raw score (total number of marks awarded when the test was marked)
- their age on the date the test was taken in years and **completed** months.

Use Tables 1–3 to look up the corresponding age-standardised score. Using the appropriate table for the test taken, locate the learner's raw score on the left-hand side of the table. Then read across the row to the column headed by the learner's age. The age-standardised score for this learner is in the cell where the row and column intersect. For example, a learner who has taken test 7ER17/7CRh17 and is 12 years and 3 months (12.03) and has a raw score of 13 would have an age-standardised score of 110.

Interpreting an age-standardised score

When age-standardised score scales are developed, the average raw score for all the learners of a given age taking the test is set to be equivalent to a standardised score of 100. About 68 per cent of learners would be expected to have age-standardised scores

between 85 and 115. An age-standardised score lower than 85 **might** suggest some difficulty with numerical reasoning as measured on the test. An age-standardised score greater than 115 **might** suggest that a learner is performing well in comparison with other learners of the same age and that it may be appropriate to provide them with more challenging numerical reasoning activities.

Very low age-standardised scores are shown in the table as * which can be interpreted as 'less than 70' and very high scores are shown as **, which can be interpreted as 'more than 140'. The tests are designed to measure the range of performance in numerical reasoning that would be expected from learners in the specified year groups. In the case of learners whose numerical reasoning skills are developing more slowly than would be expected for their age or learners who achieve very highly on the tests, their scores cannot be determined as accurately as those for learners scoring within the range expected. If a school wishes to calculate class averages, the use of 69 or 141 would be accurate enough estimates for these learners.

Progress measures

The progress measure scales are calculated separately for each national curriculum year group and each test.

Progress measures are not adjusted for age.

Working out a progress measure

To work out the progress measure for an individual learner you will need their raw score (total number of marks awarded when the test was marked).

Use Tables 4–6 to look up the corresponding progress measure.

Using the appropriate table for the test taken, locate the learner's raw score on the left-hand side of the table. Then read across the row to the progress measure.

For example, a learner who has taken test 7ER17/7CRh17 and has a raw score of 10 would have a progress measure of 1006.

Interpreting a progress measure

The progress measure shows how well an individual learner has done in a given test compared with **all other learners in the same national curriculum year group taking the same test**. The progress measure should be presented as a time series allowing for a learner's achievement in the tests to be tracked over time.

The mean of the progress measure for each year group is set at 1000, and the scores range from 950 to 1050. Learners achieving between 980 and 1020 (i.e. scores within one standard deviation of the mean) have a progress measure that is in line with learners in the same year group (taking the same test). Approximately 68 per cent of learners will have a score in this range. Learners scoring outside of this range (i.e. below 980 or above 1020) have a progress measure that is either below or above that of most learners in their year group.

The progress measure for 2017 should be considered alongside any previous progress measure for this learner. Progress measures that are broadly similar from year to year would suggest that a learner is making steady progress within their year group. Small variations in the score from year to year are to be expected but if there are large changes in the progress measure between one year and the next, then this suggests that a learner has made either more or less progress than the rest of the learners taking the test. Please refer to the practitioner guidance at learning.gov.wales/resources/browse-all/reporting-and-interpreting-national-test-results-2017/?lang=en for further information on interpreting progress measures.

Out-of-year testing

Where a learner has taken a test that is different from their national curriculum year group test, look up their progress measure using the table appropriate for the test taken. Their progress measure compares the learner to all other learners who have taken the same test.

For example, for a learner in national curriculum Year 8 who has taken test 7ER17/7CRh17 and has a raw score of 7 it is possible to look up a Year 7 progress measure. A raw score of 7 gives a Year 7 progress measure of 998 which indicates that the learner has performed at around the same level as the average learner in Year 7.

When comparing progress measures over time it is important to consider the reference group (the national curriculum year group the learner is compared with), as this may be different from one year to the next.

Table 4: Year 7 Test 7ER17/7CRh17 raw score to progress measure conversion table

Total score	Progress measure
0	973
1	979
2	982
3	986
4	989
5	992
6	995
7	998
8	1001
9	1003
10	1006
11	1009
12	1012
13	1015
14	1018
15	1022
16	1025
17	1030
18	1035
19	1043
20	1050

Table 5: Year 8 Test 8ER17/8CRh17 raw score to progress measure conversion table

Total score	Progress measure
0	979
1	986
2	991
3	995
4	998
5	1002
6	1005
7	1008
8	1010
9	1014
10	1016
11	1019
12	1022
13	1025
14	1028
15	1031
16	1034
17	1038
18	1043
19	1050
20	1050

Table 6: Year 9 Test 9ER17/9CRh17 raw score to progress measure conversion table

Total score	Progress measure
0	959
1	979
2	984
3	989
4	993
5	996
6	1000
7	1003
8	1005
9	1008
10	1011
11	1013
12	1016
13	1019
14	1022
15	1025
16	1028
17	1031
18	1036
19	1043
20	1050

