

Functional Skills Mathematics - Level 2

Learning aims and outcomes at Level 2

Functional Skills mathematics qualifications at these levels should:

- Indicate that students can demonstrate their ability in mathematical skills and their ability to apply these, through appropriate reasoning and decision making, to solve realistic problems of increasing complexity;
- Introduce students to new areas of life and work so that they are exposed to concepts and problems which, while not of immediate concern, may be of value in later life; and
- Enable students to develop an appreciation of the role played by mathematics in the world of work and in life generally.

Subject Content: Level 2

Use of numbers and the number system: students at Level 2 are expected to be able to use numbers of any size; read, write and make use of positive and negative integers of any size; use, order and compare integers, fractions, decimals, percentages and ratios as well as recognise the value of a digit in any whole or decimal number. They can use numerical and spatial patterns for a purpose and calculate with, and convert between, numbers written as fractions, decimals, percentages and ratios. For specific content on numbers and the number system – see below.

Level 2 - using numbers and the number system – <i>whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages</i>
1. Read, write, order and compare positive and negative numbers of any size
2. Carry out calculations with numbers up to one million including strategies to check answers including estimation and approximation
3. Evaluate expressions and make substitutions in given formulae in words and symbols
4. Identify and know the equivalence between fractions, decimals and percentages
5. Work out percentages of amounts and express one amount as a percentage of another
6. Calculate percentage change (any size increase and decrease), and original value after percentage change

7. Order, add, subtract and compare amounts or quantities using proper and improper fractions and mixed numbers
8. Express one number as a fraction of another
9. Order, approximate and compare decimals
10. Add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals up to three decimal places
11. Understand and calculate using ratios, direct proportion and inverse proportion
12. Follow the order of precedence of operators, including indices

Use of measures, shape and space: students at Level 2 are expected to be able to handle relationships between measurements of various kinds, use angles and coordinates when involving position and direction and make use of geometric properties in calculations with 2-D and 3-D shapes and understand the relationships between them. For specific content on measures, shape and space – see below.

Level 2 - measures, shape and space
13. Calculate amounts of money, compound interest, percentage increases, decreases and discounts including tax and simple budgeting
14. Convert between metric and imperial units of length, weight and capacity using a) a conversion factor and b) a conversion graph
15. Calculate using compound measures including speed, density and rates of pay
16. Calculate perimeters and areas of 2-D shapes including triangles and circles and composite shapes including non-rectangular shapes (formulae given except for triangles and circles)
17. Use formulae to find volumes and surface areas of 3-D shapes including cylinders (formulae to be given for 3-D shapes other than cylinders)
18. Calculate actual dimensions from scale drawings and create a scale diagram given actual measurements
19. Use coordinates in 2-D, positive and negative, to specify the positions of points
20. Understand and use common 2-D representations of 3-D objects
21. Draw 3-D shapes to include plans and elevations
22. Calculate values of angles and/or coordinates with 2-D and 3-D shapes

Handle information and data: students at Level 2 are expected to be able to construct, interpret and evaluate a range of statistical diagrams. They can calculate and interpret probabilities. They can calculate, analyse, compare and interpret appropriate data sets, tables, diagrams and statistical measures such as common averages (mean, median, mode) and spread (range), and use statistics to compare sets of data. They can identify patterns and trends from data as well as recognise simple correlation. For specific content on information and data see below.

Level 2 - handling information and data
23. Calculate the median and mode of a set of quantities
24. Estimate the mean of a grouped frequency distribution from discrete data
25. Use the mean, median, mode and range to compare two sets of data
26. Work out the probability of combined events including the use of diagrams and tables, including two-way tables
27. Express probabilities as fractions, decimals and percentages
28. Draw and interpret scatter diagrams and recognise positive and negative correlation

Solving mathematical problems and decision making: students at Level 2 are expected to be able to use the knowledge and skills listed above to recognise and obtain a solution or solutions to a complex problem. A complex problem is one which requires a multistep process, typically requiring planning and working through at least two connected steps or processes.

Individual problems are based on a combination of the knowledge and/or skills from the mathematical content areas (number and the number system; measures, shape and space; information and data). At Level 2 it is expected that the student will be able to address individual problems some of which draw upon a combination of all three mathematical areas and require students to make connections between those content areas.

Level 2 - solving mathematical problems and decision making
Students at Level 2 are expected to be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read, understand, and use mathematical information and mathematical terms; • Address individual problems as described above; • Use knowledge and understanding to a required level of accuracy; • Identify suitable operations and calculations to generate results; • Analyse and interpret answers in the context of the original problem; • Check the sense and reasonableness of answers; and • Present and explain results clearly and accurately demonstrating reasoning to support the process and show consistency with the evidence presented. <p>The context of individual problems at this level will require interpretation and analysis in order for the student to be able independently to identify and carry out an appropriate mathematical process or processes.</p>