



Q&A: Lifeskills Mathematics

Mathematics for everyday life and work

What is Lifeskills Mathematics?

Lifeskills Mathematics is the study of Mathematics in real-life contexts. It focuses on the areas of **finance**, **statistics**, **data management**, **measurement** and **geometry**, and aims to equip learners with the mathematical skills and knowledge they will need in their everyday lives — both personally and in the workplace.

Which Lifeskills Mathematics qualifications are available?

There are new National Courses in Lifeskills Mathematics, from National 2 to National 5:

Course	National 2 Lifeskills Mathematics	National 3 Lifeskills Mathematics	National 4 Lifeskills Mathematics	National 5 Lifeskills Mathematics
SCQF level	2	3	4	5
Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number and Number Processes ◆ Shape, Space and Data <p>Optional Units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Money ◆ Time ◆ Measurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Manage Money and Data ◆ Shape, Space and Measures ◆ Numeracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Managing Finance and Statistics ◆ Geometry and Measures ◆ Numeracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Managing Finance and Statistics ◆ Geometry and Measures ◆ Numeracy

How will learners benefit from studying Lifeskills Mathematics?

Through Lifeskills Mathematics, learners will develop their ability to use mathematical processes in real-life situations such as managing personal finances; using measurements, diagrams and time management skills to plan practical projects; and interpreting and analysing statistical information to draw conclusions.

Will learners develop skills in numeracy?

Yes, each of these Courses develops the Core Skill of numeracy. National 3, National 4 and National 5 Lifeskills Mathematics Courses contain mandatory Numeracy Units, which are also available on a freestanding basis.

How will Lifeskills Mathematics prepare learners for the workplace?

Learners will develop skills in problem-solving, communication and numeracy. They will also develop the ability to evaluate risk, to inform the decisions they make on both an individual and collective basis.

These skills are among the recognised, essential employability skills for the modern world and they feature strongly in all Lifeskills Mathematics Courses.

Are National 4 and National 5 Lifeskills Mathematics Courses easier than National 4 and National 5 Mathematics Courses?

No, the level of demand and difficulty is no different for Lifeskills Mathematics. National 4 Mathematics and National 4 Lifeskills Mathematics are both set at SCQF level 4, while National 5 Mathematics and National 5 Lifeskills Mathematics are both set at SCQF level 5.

What is the difference between Mathematics and Lifeskills Mathematics?

Mathematics Courses focus on a broad range of operational skills in algebra, calculus, geometry, numeracy, statistics and trigonometry.

On some occasions, learners are also required to demonstrate reasoning skills by interpreting situations to identify a suitable strategy. They need to explain their solutions and relate them to the context given.

Lifeskills Mathematics Courses focus on developing reasoning skills using real-life contexts relating to finance, statistics, numeracy, geometry and measures.

This includes: interpreting and analysing information; selecting and carrying out appropriate calculations; and making and communicating informed decisions.

What progression is available for learners who successfully achieve a Lifeskills Mathematics Course?

Learners could take further qualifications in Mathematics or related areas such as Personal Finance, Financial Services, Construction or Technician Mathematics. They could also progress to further training, apprenticeship programmes or employment.