
Mathematics: Methods in Algebra and Calculus

SCQF: level 7 (8 SCQF credit points)

Unit code: J2AY 77

Unit outline

The general aim of the Unit is to develop advanced knowledge and skills in algebra and calculus that can be used in practical and abstract situations to manage information in mathematical form. The Outcome covers partial fractions, standard procedures for both differential calculus and integral calculus, as well as methods for solving both first order and second order differential equations. The importance of logical thinking and proof is emphasised throughout.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

- 1 Use mathematical operational skills linked to methods in algebra and calculus

This Unit is available as a free-standing Unit. The Unit Specification should be read in conjunction with the *Unit Support Notes*, which provides advice and guidance on delivery, assessment approaches and development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. Exemplification of the standards in this Unit is given in *Unit Assessment Support*.

Recommended entry

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by one or more of the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Higher Mathematics Course or relevant Units

Equality and inclusion

This Unit Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information please refer to the *Unit Support Notes*.

Standards

Outcomes and assessment standards

Outcome 1

The learner will:

1 Use mathematical operational skills linked to methods in algebra and calculus by:

- 1.1 Applying algebraic skills to partial fractions
- 1.2 Applying calculus skills through techniques of differentiation
- 1.3 Applying calculus skills through techniques of integration
- 1.4 Applying calculus skills to solving differential equations

Evidence Requirements for the Unit

Assessors should use their professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding of their learners, to determine the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and the conditions and contexts in which they are used. They should ensure there is sufficient evidence of competence in algebraic, calculus and reasoning skills from the Outcomes and Assessment Standards to allow a judgement to be made that the learner has achieved the Unit.

Assessors should use their professional judgement when giving learners credit for an appropriate degree of accuracy. This may mean giving credit for incomplete solutions or numerically incorrect solutions which show correct methodology, therefore demonstrating required knowledge and understanding of the algebraic and calculus processes involved.

Evidence may be presented for individual Outcomes or it may be gathered for the Unit as a whole through integrating assessment in a single activity. If the latter approach is used, it must be clear how the evidence covers each Outcome.

A calculator or equivalent technologies may be used.

Assessors can give learners access to the formulae contained in the formulae sheet accompanying the Advanced Higher Mathematics Course assessment.

Further guidance on the use of formulae at Unit assessment level is given in the *Unit Support Notes*.

For Outcome 1, learners will be required to provide evidence for each of the Assessment Standards by drawing on the following:

Algebraic skills (1.1)

- ◆ Expressing rational functions as a sum of partial fractions (denominator of degree at most 3 and easily factorised).

Calculus skills (1.2)

- ◆ Differentiating exponential and logarithmic functions
- ◆ Differentiating functions using the chain rule.
- ◆ Differentiating functions given in the form of a product and in the form of a quotient.
- ◆ Differentiating inverse trigonometric functions.
- ◆ Finding the derivative of functions defined implicitly.
- ◆ Finding the derivative of functions defined parametrically.

Calculus skills (1.3)

- ◆ Integrating expressions using standard results.
- ◆ Integrating by substitution.
- ◆ Integrating by parts.

Calculus skills (1.4)

- ◆ Solving first order differential equations with variables separable.
- ◆ Solving first order linear differential equations using an integrating factor.
- ◆ Solving second order differential equations.

Exemplification of assessment is provided in *Unit Assessment Support*. Advice and guidance on possible approaches to assessment is provided in the *Unit Support Notes*.

Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Unit. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Unit are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Unit where there are appropriate opportunities.

2 Numeracy

- 2.1 Number processes
- 2.2 Money, time and measurement
- 2.3 Information handling

5 Thinking skills

- 5.3 Applying
- 5.4 Analysing and evaluating

Amplification of these is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills should be at the same SCQF level as the Unit and be consistent with the SCQF level descriptor. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work is given in the *Unit Support Notes*.

Administrative information

Published: July 2019 (version 3.0)

Superclass: RB

History of changes to National Unit Specification

Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
2.0	Unit title amended to include 'Mathematics:' prefix. Evidence Requirements updated.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2015
3.0	Level changed from Advanced Higher to SCQF level 7 Unit code updated	Qualifications Manager	July 2019

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Note: readers are advised to check SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk to ensure they are using the most up-to-date version of the Unit Specification.

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