CORE SKILLS UNIT

What are Core Skills?

Core Skills are skills and abilities that everyone uses in their family and personal life, at work, in public, in the community, and in education and training.

The Core Skills are:

♦ Communication
♦ Numeracy
♦ Information and Communication Technology
♦ Problem Solving
♦ Working with Others

They are important because they help you to be effective in almost everything you do. That's also why employers value them.

Improving your Core Skills helps you cope with today’s quickly changing world. It will make you more confident, help you to learn more easily, and improve your career prospects.
What is this Core Skills Unit about?
This Unit is about using very simple measuring skills to solve problems. The problems will be based on familiar, everyday things.
If there are any words you don’t understand in this Unit, your tutor will explain them to you.

What should I know or be able to do before I start?
You do not need any knowledge or experience before you start.

What do I need to do?
You will:
♦ read and use a very simple measuring instrument (for example, a ruler, a metre stick, or a thermometer) to make a measurement to the nearest marked number
♦ recognise common units in which different quantities are measured (for example, length in centimetres or metres; weight in grams or kilograms; volume in litres)
♦ recognise and use whole numbers (for example, 5)
♦ make a very simple numerical comparison between items
♦ use the results of your measuring activities to make decisions

Your tutor will offer you time to practise your measuring and number skills.

How do I get this Unit?
You will need to show that you have all the skills in the Unit.
Your tutor might watch you using a ruler or a thermometer to take measurements and then ask you about your results.
You could also show your skills by writing or by telling your tutor your answers.
What might this involve?
Here are examples of some things you might do:
♦ use a measuring jug to measure out 200 ml of fruit juice
♦ use scales to weigh yourself to find if you are below or above average weight
♦ use a thermometer to measure the temperature of a room to decide if the heating should be turned on
♦ use a metre stick to measure the depth of a fish tank to decide on the height of plants you might put in it
♦ use a tape measure to measure a table to see if it will fit into a space

What can I do next?
You could move on to the other Numeracy Units at SCQF level 2:
♦ Using Number: Money
♦ Using Number: Time
♦ Using Graphical Information

Once you have achieved the Units at SCQF level 2, you could move on to Numeracy Units at SCQF level 3. Your tutor can advise you about this.
Guidance for tutors

Learners should be clear about the reasons for making the measurement and should be guided as to the deductions that can be made from the results. Use instruments with scales where all the divisions are numbered. Learners are only expected to measure to the nearest marked number. Measuring instruments must have analogue scales: electronic instruments with digital readouts are not applicable for this Unit. Learners should check their answers, although evidence of checking is not required.

Further guidance is available in the accompanying Assessment Support Pack.

Disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Core Skills
This Unit is part of a suite of four Units that when completed give automatic certification of the Core Skill of Numeracy at SCQF level 2. The other Units in this suite are:
Using Number: Time at SCQF level 2
Using Number: Money at SCQF level 2
Using Graphical Information at SCQF level 2

Credit value
1.5 SCQF credit points (0.25 SQA credits) at SCQF level 2

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