Summary Functional Skills Maths Grade Descriptors

Level 1 Descriptor

Learners will demonstrate the ability to work with simple fractions and should understand the relationship of these to percentages. They will be able to perform calculations and should follow the precedence of operators. They should be able to round or truncate appropriately to a final integer answer. They will be able to use simple formulae. They will engage with simple ratio and proportion.

Learners will be able to calculate using money and round their answer appropriately. They will be able to convert between units in the same system and use simple scales. They will be able to draw and interpret 2-D shapes and representations of simple 3-D shapes. They should be able to calculate some perimeters, areas and volumes. Learners should be able to work with time in a variety of settings.

Learners should be able to draw simple graphs and charts and have some understanding of probability and be able to calculate simple probabilities. Learners should also be able to calculate the mean of a set of data.

Learners will be able to engage with straightforward problems but may not always choose the most logical approach to resolving these. They should be able to use the required level of accuracy and may be able to use strategies to check their answers.

Level 2 Descriptor

Learners will demonstrate the ability to engage with fractions and their relationship to decimals and percentages. They will be able to calculate percentage of quantities and often deal with increases and decreases. They will be able to work with ratio and proportion in a variety of settings.

Learners will be able to calculate using money but may make errors when calculating compound interest. They will be able to convert between some metric and imperial units. Learners will be able to calculate simple compound measures. They will be able to engage with 2-D shapes and 2-D representations of 3-D shapes and should understand how to calculate some perimeters, areas and volumes. They will be able to draw plans and elevations.

Learners will be able to find all forms of average but may not always select the most appropriate one if set within a problem. They will understand and work out probability. They will draw and use scatter diagrams.

Learners will be able to use maths within problems, but their approach may not always be the most logical or economic. They will know most of the formulae they need to recall. They will be able to find the required accuracy in most cases and should be able to show checking strategies when required.