

General Mathematics

General senior subject

General

Mathematics is a unique and powerful intellectual discipline that is used to investigate patterns, order, generality and uncertainty. It is a way of thinking in which problems are explored and solved through observation, reflection and logical reasoning. It uses a concise system of communication, with written, symbolic, spoken and visual components. Mathematics is creative, requires initiative and promotes curiosity in an increasingly complex and data-driven world. It is the foundation of all quantitative disciplines.

To prepare students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate effectively in the community and the economy requires the development of skills that reflect the demands of the 21st century. Students undertaking Mathematics will develop their critical and creative thinking, oral and written communication, information & communication technologies (ICT) capability, ability to collaborate, and sense of personal and social responsibility — ultimately becoming lifelong learners who demonstrate initiative when facing a challenge. The use of technology to make connections between mathematical theory, practice and application has a positive effect on the development of conceptual understanding and student disposition towards mathematics.

Mathematics teaching and learning practices range from practising essential mathematical routines to develop procedural fluency, through to investigating scenarios, modelling the real world, solving problems and explaining reasoning. When students achieve procedural fluency, they carry out procedures flexibly, accurately and efficiently. When factual knowledge and concepts come to mind readily, students are able to make more complex use of knowledge to successfully formulate, represent and solve mathematical problems. Problem-solving helps to develop an ability to transfer mathematical skills and ideas

between different contexts. This assists students to make connections between related concepts and adapt what they already know to new and unfamiliar situations. With appropriate effort and experience, through discussion, collaboration and reflection of ideas, students should develop confidence and experience success in their use of mathematics.

The major domains of mathematics in General Mathematics are Number and algebra, Measurement and geometry, Statistics and Networks and matrices, building on the content of the P–10 Australian Curriculum. Learning reinforces prior knowledge and further develops key mathematical ideas, including rates and percentages, concepts from financial mathematics, linear and non-linear expressions, sequences, the use of matrices and networks to model and solve authentic problems, the use of trigonometry to find solutions to practical problems, and the exploration of real-world phenomena in statistics.

General Mathematics is designed for students who want to extend their mathematical skills beyond Year 10 but whose future studies or employment pathways do not require calculus. It incorporates a practical approach that equips learners for their needs as future citizens. Students will learn to ask appropriate questions, map out pathways, reason about complex solutions, set up models and communicate in different forms. They will experience the relevance of mathematics to their daily lives, communities and cultural backgrounds. They will develop the ability to understand, analyse and take action regarding social issues in their world. When students gain skill and self-assurance, when they understand the content and when they evaluate their success by using and transferring their knowledge, they develop a mathematical mindset.

Pathways

A course of study in General Mathematics can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of business, commerce, education, finance, IT, social science and the arts.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- recall mathematical knowledge
- use mathematical knowledge
- communicate mathematical knowledge
- evaluate the reasonableness of solutions
- justify procedures and decisions
- solve mathematical problems.

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Money, measurement, algebra and linear equations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer arithmetic • Shape and measurement • Similarity and scale • Algebra • Linear equations and their graphs 	Applications of linear equations and trigonometry, matrices and univariate data analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications of linear equations and their graphs • Applications of trigonometry • Matrices • Univariate data analysis 1 • Univariate data analysis 2 	Bivariate data and time series analysis, sequences and Earth geometry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bivariate data analysis 1 • Bivariate data analysis 2 • Time series analysis • Growth and decay in sequences • Earth geometry and time zones 	Investing and networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans, investments and annuities 1 • Loans, investments and annuities 2 • Graphs and networks • Networks and decision mathematics 1 • Networks and decision mathematics 2

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.

In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): 20%			
Problem-solving and modelling task			
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Examination — short response	15%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Examination — short response	15%
Summative external assessment (EA): 50%			
• Examination — combination response			