



UNIVERSITY *of* CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

Defining key skills and assessment specifications

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What is assessment specification used for?

- To define skills that are tested
- To ensure **conformity** across schools



Examples of Assessment specifications

- O-level syllabus
- National Curriculum levels



O-level Assessment Objectives

The examination will test the ability of candidates to:

- 1. recognise the appropriate mathematical procedures for a given situation;
- 2. perform calculations by suitable methods, with and without a calculating aid;
- 3. use the common systems of units;
- 4. estimate, approximate and use appropriate degrees of accuracy;
- 5. interpret, use and present information in written, graphical, diagrammatic and tabular forms;
- 6. use geometrical instruments;



O-level Assessment Objectives

- 7. recognise and apply spatial relationships in two and three dimensions;
- 8. recognise patterns and structures in a variety of situations and form and justify generalisations;
- 9. understand and use mathematical language and symbols and present mathematical arguments in a logical and clear fashion;
- 10. apply and interpret Mathematics in a variety of situations, including daily life;
- 11. formulate problems into mathematical terms, select, apply and communicate appropriate techniques of solution and interpret the solutions in terms of the problems.



National Curriculum

Divided into 4 attainment targets

- Mathematical processes and applications
- Number and algebra
- Geometry and measures
- Handling data

Each attainment target sub-divided into 8 levels



National Curriculum level descriptors

Level 5

Pupils use their understanding of place value to multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals. They order, add and subtract negative numbers in context. They use all four operations with decimals to two places. They solve simple problems in solving ratio and direct proportion. They calculate fractional or percentage parts of quantities and measurements, using a calculator where appropriate. They construct, express in symbolic form and use simple formulae involving one or two operations. They use brackets appropriately. They use and interpret coordinates in all four quadrants.



Assessment specification for SPA

- Based on key skills taken from schemes of work
- Series of **assessment objectives**
- Each assessment objective divided into 5 **levels** of difficulty



Assessment Objectives

- How are assessment objectives decided upon?