



Develop your maths & numeracy skills

Being confident about your numeracy skills will help to widen your job opportunities and is essential if you are thinking of setting up your own business. Use the embedded hyperlinks to go straight to the materials.

If you don't need a qualification, but just want to brush up your maths, these are some of the best websites providing free on-line help

BBC - Learning - Maths learning resources and online courses provides information and links to other sites providing on-line maths help, including **BBC - GCSE Bitesize – Maths Topics** an interactive revision resource for GCSE maths including **Algebra, Data Handling, Number, Shape, space and measurements** and a **mock examination**.

The Free Mathematics How-to Library includes **Money Maths** with business related problems and worked examples including **discount; profit and loss; simple interest** and **compound interest** in addition to help with GCSE topics such as **algebra, fractions** and **graphs**.

Open Learn provides free access to parts of the Open University Basic Mathematics courses and to some higher level OU mathematics and statistics courses.

Move On you can test your basic maths skills online and prepare for the National Certificate in Adult Numeracy (level 1) here. If you don't need the certificate this could also be useful for building up your confidence before starting a GCSE course.

If you're setting up your own business, go to Business Link's advice about **financial planning and forecasting** and also the **finance and grants site map** for all aspects of finance.

If you want a maths qualification

Next Step

Use the **Advanced Course Search** facility to find a suitable course near where you live or work. Type '**mathematics**' into the Course box, enter your **post code** and the **distance** you would be prepared to travel, select **full time, part-time** or **flexible** and the **level** of the course you are looking for (e.g. GCSE is level 2). Then click on **Search**.

Teacher Training

In the **Numeracy QTS skills test** section of the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) website you will find information and practice materials to help you prepare for the QTS skills test in numeracy. This test must be taken by all trainees seeking to gain QTS regardless of the subjects and age ranges which they are training to teach.

Distance learning courses

Search **Learn Direct** for local maths courses. The **Open University** short course '**Starting with Maths**' covers some very basic maths skills with one-to-one telephone support from a personal tutor. You can find details of this and other OU maths courses from the **Open University's mathematics and statistics website**.