

# HIGHERS IN A NUTSHELL

The National Parent Forum of Scotland Summary of Higher Mathematics

MATHEMATICS

HIGHER

3  
UNITS

**EXPRESSIONS AND FUNCTIONS  
RELATIONSHIPS AND CALCULUS  
APPLICATIONS**

+  
COURSE  
ASSESSMENT

**TWO QUESTION PAPERS**



## Skills

Learners will be able to:

- understand and use a range of complex mathematical concepts and relationships
- select and apply operational skills in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus and statistics within mathematical contexts
- select and apply skills in numeracy
- use mathematical reasoning skills to extract and interpret information and to use complex mathematical models
- use mathematical reasoning skills to think logically, provide justification or proof and solve problems
- communicate mathematical information with complex features



## Opportunities for Learners

Learners will be able to:

- select and apply mathematical techniques in a variety of mathematical situations
- develop confidence in the subject and a positive attitude towards further study in mathematics and the use of mathematics in employment
- study in-depth mathematical concepts and the ways in which mathematics describes our world
- interpret, communicate and manage information in mathematical form - vital skills for scientific and technological research and development
- use mathematical language and explore advanced mathematical ideas



## Assessment

- To gain Higher Mathematics, learners must pass the three Units and the Course Assessment (two Question Papers for 130 marks)
- Units are assessed by the school/centre and are quality assured by the SQA. Achievement of Units is recorded on the learner's qualifications certificate
- Unit Assessment (or 'evidence of learning') may be gathered through class work, tests, oral evidence, computer-generated class work, photographs or project or investigative work. Learners may use these to build a portfolio to show their progress through the Units
- The Course Assessment consists of two Question Papers (exams, see below). These are marked by the SQA
- Higher Mathematics is graded from A to D or as No Award.



|                               |  |                             |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Paper 1 Non-calculator</b> | 8-15 questions   | 1 hour 10 minutes, 60 marks |
| Specimen Paper                | <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/MathematicsPaper1SQPH.pdf">www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/MathematicsPaper1SQPH.pdf</a> |                             |
| <b>Paper 2 Calculator</b>     | 8-12 questions   | 1 hour 30 minutes, 70 marks |
| Specimen Paper                | <a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/MathematicsPaper2SQPH.pdf">www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/MathematicsPaper2SQPH.pdf</a> |                             |



**Progression** Higher courses can stand alone or follow on from National 5 qualifications and may lead to Advanced Highers, the Scottish Baccalaureate and a range of qualifications within Further and Higher Education.



For course information, specimen question papers and past paper guidance visit:

Higher Mathematics: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47910.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47910.html)

Curriculum for Excellence Key Terms and Features Factfile

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview\\_tcm4-665983.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/CfEFactfileOverview_tcm4-665983.pdf)

**Further Information for Parents and Learners** Information on assessment, skills, progression, revision resources and summaries of National Qualifications

[www.parentforumscotland.org](http://www.parentforumscotland.org)



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