Maths
Takeaway

This month's special

Construction

Did you know . . .

- In order to achieve the construction industry's own target of a fully qualified workforce by 2010, at least 70,000 people a year need to achieve an NVQ Level 2 qualification.

  www.cskills.org

- A third of companies had to refuse a contract because of a shortage of skilled staff.

  Employers' Skills Needs Survey,
  www.cskills.org

Starters

Can your employees . . .

- understand scale in site drawings?
- convert millimeters to metres?
- use a metric tape measure?
- read and understand a 2D representation of a 3D shape?
- work out areas and quantities?
- calculate amounts of materials?
- keep to schedule?

Maths skills can be checked out further by doing the mini-test at:

www.move-on.org.uk/testyourskills.asp

Download the construction skills checklist to see further examples of the practical application of maths in the industry:

www.move-on.org.uk/getonatwork.asp

Main course

- In Construction: Plastering NVQ Level 2, 100% of the units require Level 1 numeracy skills.

- In Construction: Interior Systems NVQ Level 1, 83% of the units require Level 1 numeracy skills.

Train to Gain can provide workplace learning opportunities to improve maths and gain a national qualification alongside vocationally related qualifications. For more information, visit www.traintogain.gov.uk.

LSIS LEARNING AND SKILLS IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

move on

Specials

The CBI's 2008 audit surveyed 735 firms employing 1.7 million people between them. The survey showed serious concerns about employees' abilities to spot simple numerical errors and some 34% of those surveyed reported lower productivity as a result.

Set menu

Could your employees answer the following questions?

1 A window measures 2 134 mm. What is this in metres?

a) 21.34   b) 213.4

c) 2.134   d) 0.2134

2 Mortar is made by mixing four parts sand to one part cement. A builder uses 100 kg of sand. How much cement must he use?

a) 20 kg   b) 25 kg

c) 96 kg   d) 400 kg

3 A floor tiler works out the cost in pounds of tiling a kitchen. His calculator display shows 67.8055. What is the cost to the nearest penny?

a) £67.00   b) £67.80

c) £67.81   d) £80.55

Everyone can take the opportunity to improve their skills using the Move On Learner Route at www.move-on.org.uk, to try some more questions or do the Move On mini-test.

Extras

Grin or groan

Q: What do you call a man with a plank of wood on his head?

A: Edward

Q: What do you call a man with three planks of wood on his head?

A: Edward Woodward

Q: What kind of pliers do you use in maths?

A: Multipliers

Workplace training through Train to Gain providers should be:

- Flexible
- Relevant
- Responsive

Answers: 1 c, 2 b, 3 c