

Maths Takeaway



This month's special

Maths in the credit crunch

Did you know . . .

- **At work:** Retraining, or thinking about how best to develop your career, can be daunting. Deciding what to do next and what is best for you depends on your personal circumstances and what you enjoy doing.

Citizens Advice Bureau

- **At home:** Where money is tight, there are lots of things you can do to save money and stop debt building up.

Brushing up your maths will make you more employable, boost your earning potential and help you save money!



Starters

Can you . . .

- calculate changes to your income if you work fewer hours?
- work out new prices following the change in VAT?
- compare prices of fuel and water suppliers to get the best deal
- work out if you are eligible for income-based benefits?

You can check out your maths skills by doing the mini-test at:

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

Look out for workplace learning opportunities to improve your maths and gain a national qualification. Your union learning rep should have up-to-date information on training opportunities. Alternatively, call 0800 100 900, or look on www.move-on.org.uk to find a test centre near you.

Main course

Thinking about retraining?

It is well known that by learning and developing up-to-date skills you are more likely to remain in employment, and any training or retraining you do may well call on your maths skills.

Did you know that 75% of the NVQ Level 2 Customer Care units require Level 2 maths skills?

Improving your maths skills – it all adds up!

Times may be hard at the moment, but recent research has found that improving your numeracy skills could add nearly 20% to your earning potential.

The value of basic skills in the British labour market, NRDC (p. 14)

Find out if your employer is offering training opportunities through Train to Gain.

Specials

Cutting costs

There are lots of things you can do to save money and stop debt building up. Here are some suggestions:

- Save money on fuel and water bills – to find out how to change your fuel supplier and compare prices, go to consumer watchdog web site – www.consumerfocus.org.uk.
- Make savings on your household expenses – look carefully at your spending and see if there is anything you are able to cut down on. For example, you could shop around for a cheaper mortgage or insurance provider.

To find out more about how to save money on financial products such as mortgages and insurance, go to the web site of financial watchdog – the Financial Services Authority:

www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk

Source: Citizens Advice Bureau



Set menu

Can you work out the following?

- 1 A company's profits fell by 20%. This is the same as:
a) $\frac{1}{4}$ b) $\frac{1}{3}$
c) $\frac{1}{5}$ d) $\frac{1}{2}$
- 2 An employee's net salary is eighteen thousand and fourteen pounds. What is this amount in figures?
a) £1 814 b) £18 014
c) £180 014 d) £1 800 014
- 3 A receptionist earns £6.15 an hour. She works 39 hours a week. Which of the following calculations is closest to what she earns in a week?
a) £6 x 30 b) £7 x 30
c) £6 x 40 d) £7 x 40

Log on to the Move On Learner Route at www.move-on.org.uk to try some more questions, do the Move On mini-test or try an initial assessment to find out which level to start at.

Extras

Grin or groan

'Money talks. Trouble is, mine only knows one word – goodbye!'

Q: With the current market turmoil, what's the easiest way to make a small fortune?

A: Start off with a large one.

'A director decided to award a prize of £50 for the best idea of saving the company money during the credit crunch. It was won by a young executive who suggested reducing the prize money to £10.'

Resources are available to download from www.move-on.org.uk.