

Prep for N5 Work for April and May

The first topic that pupils should work on this term is percentages. This will mainly be revision of what pupils learned while studying the National 5 Numeracy unit earlier in S3. However it is very important that pupils are confident with these skills before progressing to National 5, so it is worth spending time on. Pupils should make sure they can do the following,

1. Find the percentage of an amount with and without a calculator.

Example

To find 20% of 320 **with a calculator**

$$20 \div 100 \times 320 = 64$$

To find 20% of 320 **without a calculator**

$$1/5 \text{ of } 320 = 320 \div 5 = 64$$

$$\text{or } 10\% = 320 \div 10 = 32 \text{ then } 20\% = 32 \times 2 = 64$$

2. Find compound percentages especially in the context of bank interest, appreciation and depreciation. This is a calculator skill.

Example

To Zoe invests £2500 in the RBS. If the interest rate is 2.5% per annum how much will she have in the account after 5 years if she does not withdraw any money?

$$100\% + 2.5\% = 102.5\% \div 100 = 1.025$$

$$1.025^5 \times 2500 = \text{£}2828.52$$

3. Find reverse percentages. Note that this can be a calculator or non-calculator skill.

Example

A box of cereal has 20% extra free it now contains 480g. How much did the original box contain?

With a calculator – $120\% = 480$, $1\% = 480 \div 120 = 4$, $100\% = 4 \times 100 = 400\text{g}$

Without a calculator – $120\% = 480$, $20\% = 480 \div 6 = 80$, $100\% = 80 \times 5 = 400\text{g}$

I would recommend that pupils complete the worksheets on the website. Most worksheets have links to a video that they can watch in order to remind them how to complete the topic. Here is also a link to a bbc bitesize interactive worksheets that may be especially useful for any pupil who is finding the topic challenging,

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z37pqhv/revision/1>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z8tv6yc/revision/1>

Finally there is a worksheet with national 5 exam questions that pupils can attempt at the end of the topic. This will let the pupil see how prepared they are to sit National 5.