

Maths Pathway – Frequently Asked Questions Years 7 to 9

Maths Pathway is a different model of learning to what most of us have grown up with. Below are the answers to some ‘Frequently asked questions’ about how this model works. If you have any questions which are not addressed here please contact your child’s Math teacher.

Does my child spend all their maths classes working on their computer?

No. Modules and one part of the test is computer based, everything else is not.

Your child will be completing a variety of different learning activities, including:

- 1) Rich Learning Tasks
- 2) Mini lessons
- 3) Energizers
- 4) Teacher led whole class lessons
- 5) Modules
- 6) Fortnightly individualised test
- 7) Individual one on one teacher support
- 8) Projects

Your child’s maths teacher has emailed some more detail about each of these to parents.

Should my child be doing Maths Pathway homework?

Yes.

All students from Years 7 to 9 are required to complete at least one module per cycle (fortnight) for homework. Students can complete more at home and are encouraged to do so.

If my child is stuck on a question whilst doing homework how can they get help?

There are a number of things that students and parents can do should your child not know how to answer a question.

- 1) Watch the video. All modules have short videos attached which explain the associated mathematical concept.
- 2) Check the answer. Looking at the answer and working backwards to the question is a good strategy in order to decipher a concept and learn a mathematical technique.
- 3) Email your teacher. The teacher will not be able to give an immediate response but will get back to you as soon as they can.
- 4) If all of the above fails, your child can stop working on the module and choose a different one to work on. They can then talk to their teacher in the next lesson about the module which has them stumped.

Can I access the Maths Pathway program to see how my child is progressing?

Yes.

Ask your child to share with you their Maths Pathway username and password, or ask them to log onto the program for you. In the top right corner of the home screen is the 'Parents and Carers' tab. Here you will find more information about the program and will also be able to see your child's individual progress.

Should I enter my details in the Parents and Carers section?

This is personal preference.

If you would like to receive notifications from Maths Pathway when your child receives their test results or achieves something impressive, enter your details in this section.

What do the Growth, Effort and Accuracy percentages mean?

Growth

This is a percentage score which predicts how your child's maths ability will grow, based on 100% growth as '1 year of learning that takes 1 year'. To achieve a Growth score of 100% your child needs to master 3 modules each cycle. Mastering more than three modules will result in a growth score greater than 100%

3 modules mastered = 100% growth,

4 modules mastered = 133% growth.... etc

6 modules mastered = 200% growth or '2 years of learning that takes only 1 year'.

Effort

This is a percentage score which compares the number of modules your child has been assigned to the number of modules they completed. eg A child who is assigned 6 modules but only completes 5 modules will receive an effort score of 83%

Accuracy

This is a percentage score calculated by comparing the number of modules completed to the number of modules mastered on each test. eg completing 5 modules and mastering 3 modules will give an accuracy score of 60%. If your child has fully understood the modules they completed and has been able to answer the associated test questions correctly, they will have an accuracy score of 100%.

Can my child work on Maths Pathway over the holiday break?

Yes.

The Maths Pathway program is always open offering students the opportunity to do some maths whenever they feel inspired to do so. During the holiday period all areas of the curriculum will be accessible to the students, which provides a perfect opportunity to fill gaps in their curriculum grid.

What should my child do if a screen pops up telling them to contact their teacher to ask for bonus modules to be assigned?

Ask your child to email their teacher, who will assign bonus modules once they have seen the email.

Your child has a number of modules assigned to them each cycle, usually 6. Once they have completed their assigned number of modules, teachers can assign bonus modules.

My child's report included an assessment task called 'Semester 1 Maths Pathway results'. What was this?

At the end of each term your child's teacher will create a semester (or term) pathway results assessment task.

This is a record of how your child has gone throughout the term. It includes a report generated from the Maths Pathway system and a comment from your child's teacher.

Should you have any questions regarding the information in this assessment please contact the class teacher.

Why is the curriculum grid on PAM different to the curriculum grid when viewed from within the Maths Pathway program?

The curriculum grid on PAM does not differentiate between current years learning and previous years learning.

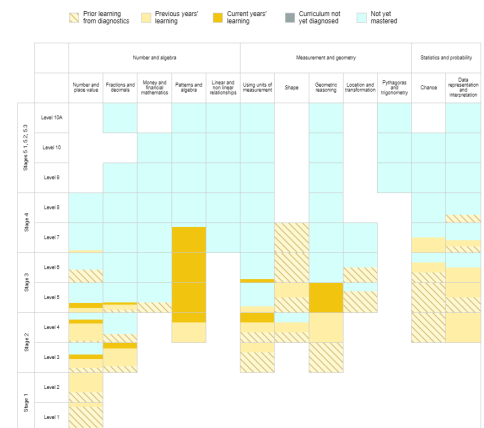
I suggest that you view the curriculum grid on the Maths Pathway program as it will differentiate between learning that has taken place this year compared to previous years.

How do I read the curriculum grid?

The Australian maths curriculum is broken up into three broad 'strands' of maths: 'Number and Algebra', 'Measurement and Geometry', and 'Statistics and Probability'. Each of these strands is made up of a number of substrands. There is a certain amount of content in each substrand at each level of the curriculum.

The curriculum grid shows you how much work your child has completed within each level of each substrand of the curriculum.

Within each box the different colours show you how much of the content is prior learning (gold lines), new learning (solid gold), still needs to be learned (blue) or undiagnosed (dots).



Do I need to worry if there are gaps in my child's curriculum grid?

No.

Maths Pathway uses a sophisticated assessment tool which is designed to detect any gaps, lack of understanding or things students have forgotten all the way back to Grade 1 level. It is also "mastery" based, meaning that students must have a very deep and thorough understanding of something to be given credit for it. Your child will fill the gaps in their knowledge before progressing to the next concept.

Is my child on track to study VCE maths?

Yes.

Generally speaking, for a student to have good life skills in numeracy, they should master up to level 7 by the end of Year 10.

For a student to access VCE Further Maths in year 12, they should reach level 8.

For VCE Maths Methods, level 9.

And for VCE Specialist Maths, level 10.

How do I know if my child's maths skills are improving?

The important thing to look at is your child's 'growth score'.

This is a measure of how much better they are now compared with the start of semester.

A student who is on track will have a growth score of 100% or above.