

THE NATIONAL NUMERACY CHALLENGE



The National Numeracy Challenge is a nation-wide drive designed to tackle the major issue of low adult numeracy in the UK.

We aim to challenge negative attitudes towards maths and to reduce the number of adults in the UK with low numeracy by over 1 million over the next five years. We will achieve this through working with employers, colleges, community organisations and individuals directly.

What is numeracy?

By numeracy we mean everyday maths. Being numerate goes beyond simply 'doing sums' – it means having the confidence and competence to use numbers to make decisions in everyday life.

What is the issue?

Figures have shown that 78% of the working-age population in England – almost 17 million people – did not have the numeracy skills needed to achieve the equivalent of a 'C' at GCSE maths (2011 'Skills For Life Survey').

Being numerate is an essential life skill. Without a reasonable level of maths for everyday life, people may not be able to manage their money through to pay-day, check wage slips, pay bills or understand interest rates, medical information or promotional offers.



KEY FACTS

The National Numeracy Challenge:

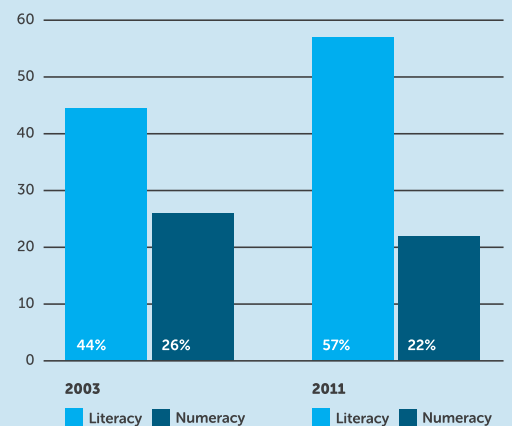
- Highlights the importance of maths in everyday life
- Promotes a 'can do' attitude towards improving everyday maths
- Offers an interactive website that assesses people's numeracy, identifies areas where they need help and suggests a learning journey suited to their needs.

During the pilot phase the overall reaction from the participants was very positive:

- 88% of partners said that the Challenge met or exceeded their expectations.
- 87% of users said that they would recommend it to their friends and family.
- 85% of the learning resources were voted "really helpful".

A comparison with Literacy

Between 2003 and 2011 Literacy levels improved but Numeracy levels declined:



% of the population working at roughly GCSE A*-C or above

How does the Challenge work?

Central to the National Numeracy Challenge is an interactive online tool: 'The Challenge Check-Up'. This assesses the participant's numeracy and establishes which areas need some improvement. The Challenge is built upon an educational model developed by National Numeracy entitled 'The Essentials of Numeracy for All'. The model highlights the interrelated areas of numeracy needed for work and adult life.

The 'Challenge Check-Up' is an adaptation of 'SkillsAssess' from ForSkills – one of the most widely used online assessment systems within vocational learning and apprenticeship training. After the assessment, people can learn online using resources appropriate to their particular needs which can be selected from a large – and growing – bank of modular resources. People can also seek further help from their employer or supporting organisation, or they can be guided towards a more formal learning course at a college or in a community setting. After learning, they are encouraged to take the 'Challenge Check-Up' again to assess the distance that they have travelled.

Working with partners

Our partnerships continue to grow and we are working with an increasing number of people in testing and further developing the Challenge. During the pilot phase over the summer of 2013, over 1,500 adults took part across 54 partner organisations.

What does it cost?

The cost should not be a barrier to participation. We plan to invite employers to join the National Numeracy Challenge at a very low cost – which will cover support from the National Numeracy team. We aim to attract sponsorship for organisations that are unable to pay and for individuals or bodies working within outreach, community or not-for-profit settings.

Become a partner

Why not become one of the pioneers of the National Numeracy Challenge? With our partners we can make a real difference to the millions of UK adults with low levels of numeracy and change the way people feel about maths.

Register: To register your interest in the Challenge click [here](#).

Contact us: Call 01273 900 298 or email info@nnchallenge.org.uk

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nnchallenge

WHAT EMPLOYERS SAY...

“Poor numeracy is the hidden problem that blights the UK economy and ruins individuals' chances in life.”

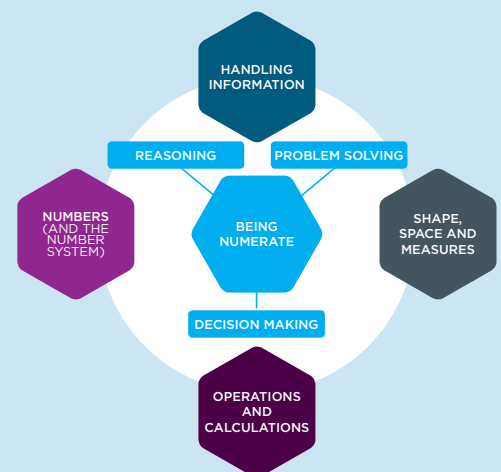
Sir Michael Rake,
Chairman BT, March 2012

“Numbers are necessary, even essential, at work and in everyday life – you can't say 'they're not for me'. If you find them challenging, then you need to be brave and ask for help. The National Numeracy Challenge will encourage people – with the support of their employers – to do just that.”

Steve Holliday, Chief Executive,
National Grid plc & Chair of BITC's
Talent & Skills Leadership Team, 2012

THE ESSENTIALS OF NUMERACY FOR ALL

The model highlights the interrelated areas of numeracy needed for work and adult life.



View the full schematic at:
www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/essentialsofnumeracy