

Online Access Mathematics Level 5 FAQs

Getting Started

Where will I find information about the Online Access Mathematics Course?

On MyAberdeen, in the Course Information folder, you will find:

- A short introductory video
- The Mathematics Course Handbook
- Collaborate Induction
- Online Access Exit Point Timeline
- Contact details for queries
- Final assessment Information
- Formula Sheet
- A guide to navigating the course area
- Academic Support resources
- Links to information about education programmes at the University of Aberdeen
- This Frequently Asked Questions guide

Where will I find information about other support available at the University of Aberdeen?

- In the Course Information area, you will find a folder of information about Academic Support. This includes links to the [Learner's Toolkit](#), the [Achieve Skills Portal](#) and [Library Resources](#).
- You will find further information about pastoral, financial and practical support available to students on the [Student Services](#) webpage.
- Information about Disability Services can be found [here](#).

How long do I have to complete the course?

Your registration lasts for one year and it is your responsibility to monitor this to ensure you complete in the given time. If you have queries about this, contact onlineaccess@abdn.ac.uk.

Who should I contact if I have further queries about the course?

- For general queries about the course, contact onlineaccess@abdn.ac.uk.
- There will also be online Collaborate drop-in sessions periodically throughout the year at which you can ask queries about the course materials and/or assessments; notifications will let you know when these will take place.

IT queries

How do I access the course materials?

Log in to [MyAberdeen](#) using the login details provided when you registered for the course. You will see 'Course Content' down the middle of the page, including the following:

- Course Information folder
- Unit Materials
- Final Assessment Information

All materials can be accessed at any time, by clicking on the folders and documents and opening the files within them. **To open a PDF copy, click on the three dots at the right-hand side and then download the original file.**

How do I access my student emails?

Log in to the student email portal on the University of Aberdeen website using the login details provided when you registered for the course.

<https://outlook.com/abdn.ac.uk>

Do I have to use my student email account, or can I just use my personal email account?

It is important that you use your student email account as this is the one we have on file and the one to which we will send your final results. You will also receive useful information to this account from IT, the library, registry, etc.

What do I do if I don't know my login details for MyAberdeen or for my student email account?

Email IT on servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk.

What should I do if I am having IT problems?

Email IT on servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk.

Course Activities

What do the course activities involve?

The Online Access Mathematics Course comprises of eleven units:

- Percentages, fractions and surds
- Linear Equations
- Pythagoras and vectors
- Gradients, straight lines and simultaneous equations
- Trigonometry
- Indices, brackets and factorising
- Completing the square and graphs of quadratics
- Trigonometry rules
- Quadratic equations and the discriminant
- Arcs and sectors
- Revision tips

Each unit is made up of online videos, worked examples, exercises and solutions, all of which are designed to build your skills as well as your engagement with mathematics.

Do I have to work through the activities in order?

You can work through the units and activities at any time, but it is recommended that you work through them in order, as they are designed to build your skills in a cumulative manner.

Do I have to undertake all the course activities before I sit the final assessments?

The final assessments can be undertaken at any time but, again, our experience is that students who engage fully in the course activities are more likely to be successful in the final assessments, and to get more out of the course.

Final Assessments

What do the final assessments involve?

There are **two** final assessment papers: Paper 1 is online and Paper 2 requires to be downloaded and worked on offline. Please note that you must complete Paper 1 before you attempt Paper 2.

Where can I find more information about the final assessments?

In the Course Information Folder, Course Handbook page 7.

How long is the Paper 1 exam?

The Paper 1 exam is online, it is a closed book assessment and is timed - 90 minutes. There are 25 multiple choice questions each worth 2 marks.

Can I stop and start the Paper 1 exam?

No, it is designed to be undertaken in one sitting.

What is the pass mark for the Paper 1 exam?

Refer to the University's Common Grade Scaling for the grades – see the course handbook page 8.

If I need to resit the Paper 1 exam, will I be given the same paper or a different paper?

You will sit a different exam. The question types will be broadly similar.

I normally receive extra time in exams due to a specific learning difference; can I receive this in my Paper 1 exam?

Yes, and you can arrange this by contacting the [disability service](#). If you already have provisions in place for another course at the University of Aberdeen, they will be able to discuss with you whether the same provisions are appropriate for this course and will advise the Online Access team of the provisions to be put in place. If you do not have provisions in place at the University of Aberdeen, you may be required to provide evidence of your needs or could undertake an assessment through the disability service. Provisions can then be put in place as appropriate. Please be aware that this can take a few weeks to arrange, so you should be mindful of this if you are aiming to exit at a nearby exit point.

Paper 2

This paper can be downloaded from the assessment folder once you have completed Paper 1. Once you download paper 2 and open the assignment, the 2 hour timer will begin. As with Paper 1 is examines other key elements of your learning throughout the course and is a closed book assessment. It has a time limit of 2 hours, consisting of 1hr 30 mins to complete the paper and 30 mins to upload it to MyAberdeen.

What is the pass mark for the Paper 2?

Refer to the University's Common Grade Scaling for the grades – see the course handbook page 8.

How should I revise for the exam?

You can revise for the exams by working through the final exercise in each unit, also in the Course Assessment area in the READ THIS FIRST – Assessment Information, there are two short practice papers.

Submission of Final Assessments

How do the exit points work?

You can submit work at any time, and it will be marked once that exit point closes. For instance, any work received between 5th November 2022 to 20th January 2023 at 10am, will be marked once that exit point closes, and results will be issued on 17th February 2023. Assessment timelines are updated each academic year and displayed on MyAberdeen in course information.

Do I need to submit both assessments at the same exit point?

It is recommended that you sit both within the same exit point, although you can submit at any time during your one-year registration. However, you will not receive your results until both assessments have been marked.

How do I sit my Paper 1 exam?

The link will be available in the Assessment page on MyAberdeen.

How do I submit my Paper 2?

Final Assessment Paper 2 should be hand written, preferably on blank paper, showing all the necessary steps of working. If for any reason you are unable to handwrite your work, please contact us. Once you have completed the paper, ensure you have completed the personal details on the cover page of the assessment and then upload your solutions to the assessment page.

Note - Prior to downloading Paper 2 please read the document [Instructions for submitting an assessment](#) as this has detailed information for uploading your solutions to the assessment area. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper has uploaded.

What if I make a mistake when uploading?

You only have one opportunity to upload your assessment. Please read the document [Instructions for submitting an assessment](#) as this has detailed information for uploading your

solutions to the assessment area. If a mistake is made during the submission process, please contact the programme administrator on onlineaccess@abdn.ac.uk.

What happens if my submission is late?

If you miss the cut-off for an exit point, your work will be marked when the next exit point closes.

Can I receive an extension for submission at a particular exit point?

No, due to the frequency of the exit points, extensions are not ordinarily granted. You should exit at the next exit point instead.

What happens next?

How are assessments marked?

Your Paper 1 exam will be marked when it is submitted, and you will receive an overall mark out of 50.

Your Paper 2 will be marked after the exit point close date, and you will receive your mark out of 50 at the appropriate results date.

Will I be able to see my Paper 1 answers again?

No, this is a secure assessment so you cannot gain access to the answers again.

How is my overall mark for the course calculated?

Your Paper 1 and Paper 2 marks are converted to a mark out of 22, and an average of the Paper 1 mark and Paper 2 mark will give you your overall mark. This will be visible in the Gradebook. An alphanumeric mark is assigned in line with the University's [Common Grading Scale](#) (e.g. A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, etc).

Is a D a pass?

Yes, a D is a pass.

What should I do if I fail?

If you fail one or both of the papers, one resit opportunity is provided, were you to be unsuccessful in either paper, you can resubmit at any point before the next exit point closes.

If I only fail one assessment, do I need to resit both?

No, you only need to resit the failed assessment.

Am I allowed to resit more than once?

No, you may only resit each paper once. If you fail the resit, you fail the course overall.

If I pass with a D, but require a C for entry into a university programme, am I allowed to resit?

Yes, you may choose to resit one or both assessments to improve your mark.

When will I get my results?

The Assessment Timeline, which can be found in the Course Information folder, outlines the dates when results will be issued. You will receive a notification or message to let you know when the results are available. Results may be available electronically before your transcript is sent.

If I submit earlier in an exit point, will I get my results earlier?

No, all scripts submitted will be marked once the exit point closes. We have a rigorous process of moderation, cross-marking and verification, and all results are ratified by an external examiner at an exam board. This is to ensure parity and consistency. Due to the complexity and workload involved in this process, results cannot be issued outwith the dates specified on the Assessment Timeline.

In the case of re-submission, are marks capped?

No, when marking resubmissions, markers can use the full range of CGS grades.

Where will my transcript be sent?

Your transcript will be sent to your University email address. This can take up to two weeks after results release day. If you have a problem with accessing your University email address, please contact IT (servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk)

Transcript content

Your transcript will display all grades that have been awarded during the course. Therefore if you undertake a Resit, both your first attempt grade and resit grade will be displayed on your transcript.

If I fail an assessment twice, can I take the whole course again?

No. You may only take the course once. Students who have failed the course will not be allowed to re-register.

Access to Further Study

Is this course worth the same as SQA National 5 Mathematics?

The Online Access Mathematics course is at SCQF level 5, which is the same level as National 5, and it is regarded by many institutions as an equivalent of National 5 Mathematics. However, it is a 15 credit course, whereas National 5 is worth 24 credits.

Can I use this course to satisfy GTCS entry requirements to Initial Teacher Education programmes at the University of Aberdeen?

Yes, this course is accepted as an equivalent of National 5 Mathematics by the University of Aberdeen. You should check with the admissions department whether a particular overall grade is required for the specific programme to which you are applying.

Can I use this course to satisfy GTCS entry requirements to Initial Teacher Education programmes at other institutions?

Most Scottish universities accept the Online Access Mathematics course as an equivalent to National 5 Mathematics and the GTCS have recognised it as an equivalent. However, you should contact any institution to which you are applying to check that they will accept it, and check if they require you to achieve a particular grade.

Is the course shaped in the same way as SQA National 5 Mathematics?

Many of the skills and dispositions built throughout the course are the same as those built by the SQA National 5 Mathematics course, but the courses are not identical. The units and course activities are uniquely designed for an online cohort, and the final assessments are tailored to the units of work throughout the programme.

How do I cite the Online Access Mathematics course on my UCAS application?

On completing your UCAS application, you need to put in the subject, the awarding institution (which is the University of Aberdeen - you will have to free type and abbreviate this to UoA or Abdn), and if gained, type in the date awarded and the grade gained. This all goes in the **qualification section** of your application form.

It is also a good idea to state clearly in your personal statement that you are undertaking, or have undertaken, the course.