Maths KS3 Assessment Criteria 2026

Year 7		
Strand	**Secure**	**Mastery**
Number & Place Value	Uses positive and negative integers confidently. Understands place value with whole numbers and decimals. Orders and compares numbers accurately.	Explains and justifies methods involving integers and decimals. Applies place value knowledge fluently in unfamiliar problems and estimation tasks.
Four Operations	Adds, subtracts, multiplies and divides whole numbers and decimals accurately using written and mental methods.	Selects efficient methods independently and explains why they work. Solves multi-step problems involving several operations confidently.
Factors, Multiples & Primes	Identifies factors, multiples, primes and square numbers. Uses BIDMAS correctly in calculations.	Applies factors and multiples to problem solving, including simplifying calculations and finding efficient strategies. Explains reasoning clearly.
Fractions, Decimals & Percentages	Converts between fractions, decimals and percentages in simple cases. Finds fractions of amounts and compares fractions confidently.	Solves complex FDP problems using equivalence and proportional reasoning. Chooses the most efficient representation for a problem.
Ratio & Proportion	Uses simple ratios and shares amounts in a given ratio. Understands direct proportion in basic contexts.	Solves multi-step ratio problems and explains proportional reasoning using diagrams, tables, or algebraic methods.
Algebra	Uses algebraic notation correctly. Simplifies expressions and substitutes values into formulae. Forms simple expressions and equations.	Generalises patterns and relationships. Manipulates expressions confidently and explains algebraic reasoning clearly.
Equations	Solves one-step and simple two-step equations accurately.	Solves and checks increasingly complex equations and explains each stage logically.
Sequences	Recognises and continues linear sequences. Finds the term-to-term rule and nth term in simple cases.	Forms and justifies nth-term rules independently and connects sequences to algebraic representations.

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Year 7		
Strand	**Secure**	**Mastery**
Geometry	Measures and draws angles accurately. Identifies properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Uses angle facts correctly.	Applies angle reasoning in multi-step problems and explains geometrical relationships using precise mathematical language.
Coordinates & Graphs	Plots coordinates in four quadrants and interprets simple graphs.	Interprets and creates graphs independently, making links between graphical and algebraic representations.
Measures	Calculates perimeter, area and volume of simple shapes using correct units.	Chooses and applies efficient methods in compound measure problems and justifies unit conversions.
Statistics	Collects, represents and interprets data using charts and averages.	Critiques representations of data, chooses suitable averages, and explains conclusions clearly.
Mathematical Reasoning	Explains methods with some mathematical vocabulary and checks answers for reasonableness.	Communicates mathematical arguments clearly, identifies errors, and justifies conclusions with evidence.
Problem Solving	Solves routine multi-step problems using taught strategies.	Solves unfamiliar problems independently, selecting and adapting strategies confidently.

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Year 8		
Strand	**Secure**	**Mastery**
Number Fluency	Works confidently with integers, decimals, fractions and percentages in calculations. Uses estimation to check answers.	Applies number skills flexibly in unfamiliar contexts and explains efficient methods clearly.
Fractions, Decimals & Percentages	Performs calculations involving fractions and percentages, including percentage increase and decrease.	Solves complex FDP and proportional reasoning problems involving several stages or representations.
Ratio & Proportion	Uses ratio notation confidently and solves direct proportion problems.	Applies proportional reasoning in algebraic, graphical and real-life contexts independently.
Powers & Roots	Uses squares, cubes, roots and powers accurately. Understands order of operations including indices.	Uses indices fluently in problem solving and explains relationships between powers and roots.
Algebraic Manipulation	Expands single brackets, factorises simple expressions and simplifies algebraic terms correctly.	Manipulates algebraic expressions fluently and explains equivalence and structure in algebraic reasoning.
Formulae & Substitution	Substitutes into formulae and rearranges simple formulae.	Rearranges formulae independently and explains the algebraic processes clearly.
Equations & Inequalities	Solves linear equations and simple inequalities accurately.	Solves increasingly complex equations and inequalities and interprets solutions in context.
Graphs	Draws and interprets straight-line graphs, including real-life graphs.	Connects equations, graphs and patterns fluently and interprets gradients and intercepts meaningfully.
Sequences	Finds nth terms for linear sequences and recognises patterns.	Investigates sequences deeply, comparing linear and non-linear patterns and justifying rules algebraically.

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Year 8		
Strand	**Secure**	**Mastery**
Geometry	Uses angle rules confidently, including parallel lines. Constructs shapes accurately using ruler and compass.	Solves complex geometrical problems with clear reasoning and precise mathematical communication.
Area, Surface Area & Volume	Calculates area of triangles and parallelograms and volume of prisms.	Applies area and volume reasoning in compound and unfamiliar problems efficiently.
Transformations	Performs reflections, rotations, translations and enlargements accurately.	Explains transformations algebraically and solves multi-step transformation problems.
Probability	Calculates probabilities of simple events and understands likelihood.	Uses probability reasoning in combined events and explains outcomes systematically.
Statistics	Interprets charts and averages and understands spread in data.	Chooses appropriate statistical measures and critiques misleading representations confidently.
Mathematical Reasoning	Explains methods logically and uses correct notation and vocabulary consistently.	Produces convincing mathematical arguments and evaluates the validity of methods and conclusions.
Problem Solving	Solves increasingly complex multi-step problems using appropriate methods.	Selects, adapts and evaluates strategies independently in unfamiliar situations.

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Year 9		
Strand	**Secure**	**Mastery**
Number & Calculation	Works fluently with integers, fractions, decimals, percentages, powers and roots. Uses estimation confidently.	Applies number skills flexibly across complex contexts and justifies efficient approaches independently.
Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change	Solves problems involving ratio, proportion, scale and rates of change.	Applies proportional reasoning fluently in algebraic, graphical and real-world contexts.
Algebraic Expressions	Expands and factorises expressions including double brackets in simple cases. Simplifies expressions confidently.	Manipulates algebraic expressions fluently and explains algebraic structure and equivalence.
Equations	Solves linear equations, inequalities and simultaneous equations in simple cases.	Solves increasingly sophisticated equations and interprets solutions critically in context.
Graphs & Functions	Draws and interprets linear graphs and recognises graphical relationships.	Links graphs, functions and algebraic representations confidently, including interpretation of gradient and intercept.
Sequences	Finds nth terms for linear and some quadratic sequences.	Generalises patterns algebraically and justifies rules using formal reasoning.
Geometry & Angle Reasoning	Applies angle facts, properties of polygons and geometrical reasoning accurately.	Solves complex geometrical problems using chains of reasoning and precise justification.
Pythagoras & Trigonometry	Uses Pythagoras' theorem and basic trigonometry in right-angled triangles.	Applies geometric methods in unfamiliar and multi-step contexts, explaining reasoning clearly.
Measures	Solves problems involving perimeter, area, volume and compound measures.	Chooses and combines methods efficiently in complex measure problems.

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Year 9		
Strand	**Secure**	**Mastery**
Transformations & Similarity	Uses transformations and understands similarity and congruence.	Applies similarity reasoning fluently in geometrical and algebraic contexts.
Probability	Calculates probabilities for combined events using tables and diagrams.	Explains probabilistic reasoning clearly and solves complex probability problems systematically.
Statistics	Interprets statistical diagrams and compares distributions using averages and spread.	Critically evaluates statistical information and justifies conclusions using appropriate measures.
Mathematical Communication	Uses mathematical language, notation and structure accurately in explanations.	Constructs formal mathematical arguments and critiques the reasoning of others.
Problem Solving	Solves non-routine problems by applying appropriate mathematical methods.	Demonstrates resilience and creativity in unfamiliar problems, evaluating and refining strategies independently.