



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

MATHEMATICS ESSENTIAL

General course

Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: General capabilities

For teaching in 2027

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment to investigate the assessment and reporting of the general capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA), the Authority has updated the statements about the general capabilities in each syllabus.

The Authority has mapped the general capabilities through the unit content and assessment types for each of the WACE courses. Students will have the opportunity to develop the general capabilities identified in the course through the teaching, learning and assessment programs. These general capabilities will be reflected on the WASSA.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Investigating the assessment and reporting of the general capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Representation of the general capabilities

The general capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will support students to live and work successfully now and into the future. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the following capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the Mathematics Essential General course. The general capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Critical and creative thinking

Students have opportunities to use their mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding to solve problems in personal, workplace, community and further learning contexts. They identify and examine relevant information from a range of sources, including visual information and digital sources, and evaluate the accuracy and validity of the information. Students draw on their mathematical knowledge to make choices that will help reach a conclusion.

Digital literacy

Students use digital tools to apply mathematical knowledge to a range of problems. They use digital tools for statistical analysis, data representation and calculation, as well as in performing simulations and in locating positions. Students use software to visualise, manipulate and construct scale drawings and shapes in design, and use spreadsheets to tabulate and graph data.

Literacy

Students develop literacy skills through reading, writing, visualising and talking about situations involving a range of mathematical ideas. They apply and further develop their literacy skills and strategies by shifting between verbal, written and spoken, graphic, numerical and symbolic forms of representing problems to formulate, understand and solve problems and communicate results. Students learn to communicate their findings in different ways, using multiple systems of representation and data displays to illustrate the relationships they have observed or constructed.

Numeracy

Students develop numeracy skills in the course by equipping them with the knowledge, confidence and reasoning needed to apply mathematics in real-world contexts. With a focus on financial literacy, measurement, data analysis and proportional reasoning, students learn to interpret information, solve problems and make informed decisions in personal, workplace and community settings. This practical approach supports their ability to transfer mathematical skills across different contexts, preparing them for employment, further education and everyday life.

Addressing the other general capabilities

Although the following general capabilities have not been identified as a focus in the Mathematics Essential General Year 12 syllabus, teachers may find opportunities to incorporate these capabilities into the teaching and learning program.

- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding
- Personal and social capability

Such opportunities may occur through the application of different contexts, pedagogical practices and/or assessment strategies that relate to the syllabus as part of the teaching and learning program.

Summary representation of the general capabilities in the Mathematics Essential General course

A representation of the general capabilities for the two years is summarised in the table below.

Year	Course	Course type	General capabilities						
			CCT	DL	EU	IU	L	N	PSC
Year 11	Mathematics Essential (GEMAE)	General	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Year 12	Mathematics Essential (GTMAE)	General	✓	✓			✓	✓	

Key

CCT: Critical and creative thinking, DL: Digital literacy, EU: Ethical understanding, IU: Intercultural understanding, L: Literacy, N: Numeracy, PSC: Personal and social capability