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| [http://www.ncetm.org.uk](http://www.ncetm.org.uk/) |
| **What is the NCETM?**The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics was set up in 2006. It is a virtual centre (www.ncetm.org.uk) dedicated to the support and development of teachers of mathematics across the whole age range. It is funded by the Department for Education, and it commands the support, and the respect of many prestigious organisations involved with mathematics education. It will be a good idea for you to get to know it well.  **As a start, you are advised to register with NCETM** – it is very easy – and take a look around it.**Your mathematics subject knowledge audit**Log on to NCETM. Click on Self-evaluation on the top line menu bar. Then click on “Mathematics Content Knowledge”. You will be offered ten options, ranging from early years to adult learning. The two that you will be most eager to explore, no doubt, will be Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, and these are probably the most important, too. It will also be of value to you, however, to look in addition at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 5, and beyond, perhaps, but it is probably wise to keep to KS 3 and 4 first.Clicking on a Key Stage takes you into a set of broad areas of mathematics, and clicking on one of these takes you to a set of questions that ask you to self-assess your level of confidence. You give yourself a score from 1 to 4: 1 means not confident, and 4 means very confident. If you are not quite sure what a question is about, you can ask for an example, and that opens up a description of the topic that you might find very helpful. If what you read about it makes perfect sense, then you deserve a 4; if not, give yourself a lower score.At this stage, do not panic if you find yourself scoring lots of 3s and 2s and even 1s. People do forget things, and it is quite possible that there are aspects of the subject that, by chance, you have never come across, depending on your own background, the GCSE or A-level syllabus you followed, and such like. Remember that this is an audit and not a test. Your goal is to identify aspects of the subject that you could usefully know more about, not to convince yourself that you know it all already.It is a good idea to complete the audit for KS 3 and 4 fairly quickly. It might be tempting to try to remedy any weaknesses that you come across immediately: if this is quick and easy, then maybe you should do it, but it is more important when doing an audit to complete the audit, and tackle any problems it identifies afterwards. You do not have to complete the audit in one sitting, though: you can save what you have done and it will all be there the next time you log on. |
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