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SCHOOL NAME:	ERC Demo School	DATE TESTED:	29/10/24

What is the DPPT-Maths?

The Drumcondra Post-Primary Maths Test (DPPT-Maths) is a **curriculum-based** test of maths achievement. It is aimed at students near the end of Second Year.

What does it measure?

The test has four sections and each one measures a different Content Area of the Junior Certificate maths curriculum¹:

- Statistics and Probability
- Geometry
- Number and Measure
- Algebra and Functions

In the test, there are 12 or 13 questions on each Content Area, with 50 questions altogether.

What do the scores mean?

The DPPT-Maths is a *standardised* test. This means it has previously been taken by a large number of Second Year students in Ireland, so we know, on average, how easy or difficult the questions are. We use this information to create *standard scores* to describe how your child did on the test, relative to other Second Year students in Ireland. These scores range from 60 to 140. The average score is 100, and most students score between 85 and 115. Using the table below, you can see where your child's scores fit in, relative to other Second year students in Ireland.

Score Range	What does it mean?	Percent in this category
120 or higher	Above average	10%
109-119	High average	20%
93-108	Average	40%
81-92	Low average	20%
80 or lower	Below average	10%

Standard scores can also be converted to STen scores, which are broad score intervals that go from 1 up to 10. The average STen score is 5.5 and most students have a STen score in the range of 4 to 7.

¹Although Trigonometry is on the Junior Certificate curriculum, it is not included in the test, as most students do not cover the topic until Third Year.

Your child's scores

Your child's **Overall Mathematics** score is **118**, which is in the **High average** range for overall maths achievement. This converts to a **STen score** of **8**.

	No. of questions attempted	Standard score	Range
Overall Mathematics	38/50	118	High average

The table below shows your child's score on each of the four Content Areas

The second column shows how many questions your child answered on each Content Area (whether right or wrong). If your child didn't answer many questions, this will affect the scores, as marks can only be given for questions that are attempted and answered correctly.

Content Area	No. of questions attempted	Standard score
Statistics & Probability	9/12	115
Geometry	9/12	120
Number & Measure	10/13	112
Algebra & Functions	10/13	117

Scores on the Content Areas

You might find that your child gets a higher or lower score on one or more of the Content Areas compared with the others. Most students will have gaps of a few points between their scores on the different Content Areas. Usually, the gap should be at least 15 points before it could be considered genuine. In this case, there could be a number of causes. For example, it might be that some topics had been covered more fully in class by the time of testing. The DPPT-Maths has been designed to test the topics that are *usually* covered by the end of Second Year, but schools and classes will differ in some ways in how they approach the curriculum. Another possible reason for a low score in one area is if that section was last in the test, and your child ran out of time. (There are different versions of the test, and the sections are in different orders, so the last section is not the same for everyone.) However, it could be that your child has a genuine strength or weakness in one or more areas of maths. If you think this is the case, it might help to discuss it with your child's teacher. For example, students with very good scores might benefit from extra learning opportunities, while those with very low scores might benefit from extra support.

What next?

Like any test, these results are an estimate of your child's achievement on one day, on one test. The DPPT-Maths provides useful information on maths achievement, but it is only one piece in the jigsaw of information about your child. If your child's test scores are not what you expected, please talk to your child's teacher. He/she will be able to put the test results in context.

Also, the NCCA has developed online resources relating to standardised testing for parents (www.ncca.ie/parents), which you might find helpful.