

Name	Date started	Target end date

WJEC GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award) – Question Pack

Foreign currency conversion and exchange rates. Sourced from legacy WJEC GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy Higher and Intermediate papers, organised for revision

REVISE
.wales

1.05 – Foreign currency & exchange rates

Spec 1.8.8 – Unit 1 (calculator allowed)

Foreign currency conversion and exchange rates. Sourced from legacy WJEC GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy Higher and Intermediate papers, organised for revision under the 2025 spec.

2025 SPECIFICATION

Estimated time for entire question pack: ~50 minutes

Derived from the GCSE Higher pace of ~1.5 min/mark (33 marks across 8 questions).

*You are advised to **not** attempt to complete all of this in one sitting.*

ABOUT THIS QUESTION PACK

This is a **focused single-topic practice pack**, not a single mock paper. Questions are organised against the 2025 specification. Questions are ordered chronologically by sitting, with custom-written and SAM questions at the end.

INSTRUCTIONS

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Show all working – method marks are awarded for clear setup.

A calculator is allowed on every question in this pack (Unit 1 is the calculator-allowed paper).

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Foreign currency & exchange rates – what the new spec asks

WJEC GCSE Mathematics (first teaching 2025) · Unit 1: calculator-allowed.

Pound to foreign 1.8.8

- Given $\text{£}1 = X$ foreign, multiply £ by X to get foreign.
- Convention: £ goes first, *foreign* is the rate.
- $\text{£}100$ at $\text{£}1 = \text{€}1.15$ gives $\text{€}115$.

Foreign to pound 1.8.8

- Divide foreign by the rate to return to pounds.
- Always check direction: which side is the £ on?
- Two-decimal-place pound answers; sensible significant figures otherwise.

Buy / sell rates 1.8.8

- Bureaux quote two rates: one for buying, one for selling.
- Always use the rate that disadvantages the tourist.
- The spread is how the bureau makes money.

Multi-step 1.8.8

- Compute total in foreign currency, then convert – or convert prices first.
- Combine with discounts/taxes carefully – convert at the right step.
- Cash limits: round down to allowed denominations.

Foreign currency & exchange rates in one page

Quick-reference notes – revisit before each question. Don't use during the questions.

Pound to foreign

£1 = X foreign \Rightarrow multiply pounds by X.
£200 at £1 = 1.25 \Rightarrow 250.

Foreign to pound

£1 = X foreign \Rightarrow divide foreign by X.
500 at £1 = 1.25 \Rightarrow £400.

Buy and sell

Banks quote two rates: *buy* (worse for you) and *sell* (better for you).
Tourist always loses a bit on the spread.

Cash machine limits

\$10 notes only? Round down to nearest 10.
\$50 notes only? Round to nearest 50.
The exchange shop returns the leftover in pounds.

Comparing across currencies

Always convert to a single currency before comparing prices.
Don't mix £ and € in the same step.

Common traps

- Multiplying when you should divide (or vice versa).
- Forgetting the exchange shop's commission/fee.
- Rounding the wrong way for tickets/notes.

Examiner
only

1. Alptai is a ski resort.
The daily snowfall for January is given in the table below.

Daily snowfall, s (cm)	Number of days
$0 \leq s < 5$	10
$5 \leq s < 10$	16
$10 \leq s < 20$	4
$20 \leq s < 30$	0
$30 \leq s < 50$	1

- (a) Calculate an estimate for the mean daily snowfall for the 31 days of January. [4]

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- (b) Circle either TRUE or FALSE for each of the following statements. [2]

The table above shows that there definitely was snowfall on each of the 31 days in January.	TRUE	FALSE
There were 16 days when the daily snowfall was less than 10 cm.	TRUE	FALSE
There was only 1 day with snowfall greater than or equal to 20 cm.	TRUE	FALSE
The modal group also contains the median daily snowfall.	TRUE	FALSE

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(c) For the 28 days of February, the mean daily snowfall in Alptai was 9 cm.
On 1st February, the snowfall recorded in Alptai was 63 cm.
Calculate the mean daily snowfall for the 27-day period 2nd to 28th February. [3]

Examiner
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Examiner
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3. Amrit is planning to go to Switzerland.
The table below shows the rates for exchanging British pounds (£) and Swiss francs (CHF) at a money exchange shop.

Buy Swiss francs (CHF)	£1 buys 1.24 CHF
Sell Swiss francs (CHF)	1.28 CHF buys £1

The exchange shop:

- has all possible British notes and coins,
- sells and buys CHF **notes only** (no coins are available or accepted),
- has 10 CHF, 20 CHF, 50 CHF, 100 CHF, 200 CHF and 1000 CHF notes.



Amrit has £480 to buy Swiss francs.

Calculate

- the maximum number of Swiss francs that Amrit can buy, and
- how much, to the nearest penny, this will cost him.

You must show all your working.

[5]

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Examiner
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5. (a) Last year, Viktor's total income before tax was 28 000 euros.

The tax bands, taxable income and tax rates for last year were as follows:

Band	Taxable income	Tax rate
Personal allowance	Up to 10 000 euros	0%
Basic rate	10 000 euros to 25 000 euros	22%
Higher rate	Over 25 000 euros	35%

Viktor has already paid 3600 euros towards his income tax bill for last year.
Calculate how much income tax Viktor still owes.
You must show all your working.

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(b) When Viktor paid 3600 euros towards his bill, the exchange rate was £1 = 1.11 euros.
How much was 3600 euros in pounds?
Give your answer correct to the nearest penny.

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Examiner only

3. Jac is planning to visit the Empire State Building in New York.

- (a) Planners had an original budget of \$60 million to construct the Empire State Building. It actually cost \$41 000 000 to construct.



Complete the following statement.
Give your answer correct to 2 decimal places.

[3]

Constructing the Empire State Building cost % less than the original budget.

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- (b) More than 4 million people visit the Empire State Building each year. What is 4 million written in standard form? Circle your answer.

[1]

4×10^{-5} 0.4×10^5 4×10^5 4×10^6 4×10^7

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Examiner
only

4. (a) *In this part of the question, you will be assessed on the quality of your organisation, communication and accuracy in writing.*

Rita gives some money to charity.
She decides to share this money between 3 different charities.

Rita gives \$40 to a children's charity.

This is $\frac{1}{5}$ of the total amount of money she gives to the 3 charities.

Rita gives $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total amount of money to an animal charity.

She gives the remaining money to a medical research charity.
Calculate how much money Rita gives to the medical research charity.
You must show all your working.

[5 + 2 OCW]

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- (b) Last year, Rita's total income before tax was \$30 000.

No income tax was payable on any income below \$10 000.
Income tax had to be paid at a rate of 22% on any income between \$10 000 and \$30 000.

How much income tax did Rita pay last year? [3]

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Examiner
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7. Jac is planning to visit the Empire State Building in New York.



- (a) According to the internet, the Empire State Building has a total of 1172 miles of elevator cable.

Complete the following statement. [2]

There is a total of **km** of elevator cable in the Empire State Building.

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- (b) The elevators in the Empire State Building were designed to move at a rate of 0.366 kilometres per minute.

Complete the following statement. [2]

The elevators in the Empire State Building were designed to move at **metres per second**.

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- (c) Planners had an original budget of \$60 million to construct the Empire State Building. It actually cost \$41 000 000 to construct.

Complete the following statement. Give your answer correct to 2 decimal places. [3]

Constructing the Empire State Building cost % less than the original budget.

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Examiner
only

- (d) More than 4 million people visit the Empire State Building each year.
What is 4 million written in standard form?
Circle your answer.

[1]

4×10^{-5}

0.4×10^5

4×10^5

4×10^6

4×10^7

- (e) The conversion rate at the exchange shop is £1 = \$1.25.
The exchange shop only has \$10 notes and \$50 notes.

Jac has exactly £350.

He wants to exchange as close to £350 as possible for US dollars (\$).

He asks for as **few** notes as possible.

Calculate:

- how many \$10 notes and how many \$50 notes Jac gets
- how much he pays for his currency.

You must show all your working.

[6]



3. Erin owns a small shop.

- (a) Erin sells Franberg bottled water in her shop. Franberg is only available in bottles of one size.

The weather in 2018 was hotter than usual.
In 2018, Erin sold 35% more bottles of Franberg than in 2017.
In 2019, Erin sold 21% fewer bottles of Franberg than in 2018.



Erin sold 2000 bottles of Franberg in 2017.
Calculate the number of bottles of Franberg Erin sold in 2019.
You must show all your working.

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- (b) Last year, Erin's income from her shop was 26 000 euros. Erin had to pay tax on all of this income. She paid 20% tax on the first 15 000 euros of this income. She paid 30% tax on the rest of this income above 15 000 euros.

Calculate how much tax Erin paid in total.
You must show all your working.

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