Numeracy Information Factsheets

SUBJECT: **Portions and percentages**

KEY-WORDS: percentage, fraction, portion, division.

LINK-WORDS: Conversion, score, mark out of a hundred

NOTES	EXAMPLE
Any number can be shown as a percentage of another. The trick is to change the problem into a fraction first, and then convert that fraction into a percentage. To change it into a fraction – just place the variable sum over the original sum. To convert the fraction into a percentage, just Multiply that fraction by 100. Sometimes you may have to do a subtraction first if the question talks of percentage increase or decrease.	What percentage of £400 is £25? $\frac{25}{400} \times 100\% = 6.25\%$ Aiden scored 55 out of 80 in an examination. What was his percentage score? $\frac{55}{80} \times 100\% = 68.75\%$ The price of a coat is increased from £35 to £40. What percentage increase is this? £40 - £35 = £5 %age increase $= \frac{5}{35} \times 100$ = 14.29%
DO's Think carefully as to which is the denominator (bottom) number of the fraction and which is the numerator (top). Especially if your answer might be more than the original total. THINK – Does my answer make sense?	**DON'Ts** Don't get the fraction upside down. This is usually obvious if you consider whether or not your answer makes sense. Don't divide by the new price when looking at price increase or decrease – divide by the ORIGINAL price. (£35 in above example – NOT £40)

RELEVANT SUBJECTS	**EXAMPLES and LINKS**
ALL. Anywhere where you want to compare information based on a standardised percentage system.	