

Diagnostic TASK

FOCUS

Understand Numbers

- Key Understanding 7

Digit Values and Number Sequence

Years/Grades 6–7

Purpose

Digit Values: To see whether students understand how the values in each place can be renamed.

Number Sequence: To see whether students understand the multiplicative relationships between the numbers in the given sequence.

Producing work samples

Whole class or small group activity

Depending on the age of your students, give them either both examples together, or if they are younger students, one at a time. After distributing the worksheet ask students to write a full explanation of their reasons for each of their answers. You may need to conduct some individual interviews where children's reasoning is not clear from the written explanation

Number Sequence: It is best to give this task without a calculator to begin with to see if students know what is needed without experimentation. If they do not know, then make a note of this then you can provide a calculator and ask them to try and find out what they can enter. If they don't understand what 'generate a number sequence' means they are likely to just tell you how to enter each of those numbers in the calculator, rather than suggesting a single operation on 2 that would result in 0.2 and then 0.02 and so on.

Name _____ Year/Grade _____ Date _____

Digit Values

Alan said the 2 in 0.203 means 2 *tenths* but Kerryn said the 2 also means 20 *hundredths*, and Adrian said the 2 means 200 *thousandths*. What do you think?

How could the 2 in 0.203 mean different fractions?

Number Sequence

Explain how you could use a calculator to generate this number sequence? (That is, if you enter 2 and then press some keys and then the = key you will get 0.2, and so on.)

2 0.2 0.02 0.002