

Qualification: GCSE Maths (9-1)

Exam Board: AQA

What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

While Mathematics is largely divided into the main aspects of Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics, the new specification of GCSE sees these areas combined and overlapping in new and interesting ways resulting in a programme of study that will challenge and engage even the most able pupils.

Expect to see traditional topics such as Trigonometry and Vectors, along with new topics that rely heavily on advancing technology and calculator techniques, such as exponential growth and decay and iteration.

How will I be assessed in the subject?

The final exam will consist of 3 90 minute papers, one without a calculator and two which will require a modern scientific calculator (we recommend the Casio PLUS Line). The total mark will be out of 240 marks and will be graded on the new 9-1 system with 9 being the highest possible grade. Grade 5 is expected to be the standard required by employers as the benchmark in a few years' time.

Am I suited to GCSE Maths?

Maths is a core subject and as such is studied by every student in years 10 and 11. Having Higher and Foundation papers ensure that content is available to suit every students and with the help of in depth internal assessment throughout the course everyone will have the chance to make progress towards whatever grade represents success for them.

What current students say about the qualification?

“The new maths course is hard, but it feels really good when you start to get the questions right in the exam papers.”

“While I didn't enjoy maths in lower school, the GCSE work is really interesting and will help me with my A Levels in Biology and Psychology. “

Vocational Links

Maths is a requirement for most professional jobs, and has strong links with work in the sciences, banking and finance, retail and business to name but a few.