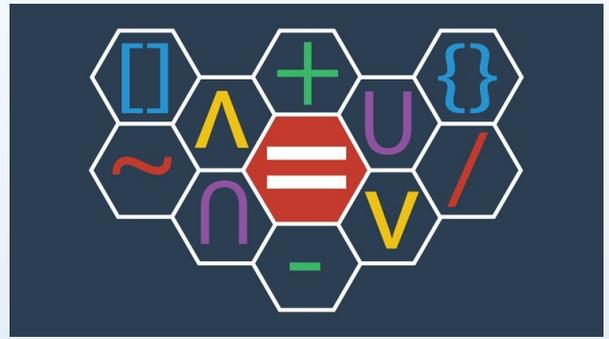


MATHEMATICS

Qualification: GCSE
Available to: All students
Awarding Body: Edexcel



OVERVIEW

Mathematics is a subject that at the basic level covers key skills for life, but as you study it allows you to look at structures, patterns and change in a way that has wide applications and its own beauty. At higher levels it has uses in the sciences, in computing, in social sciences and beyond.

Alongside the core skills of the subject there is a huge element of problem solving and communication of answers and ideas. These skills are hugely valued by employers which is why many look for maths qualifications.

DETAIL

GCSE Mathematics has six main strands of learning. These are:

- * Number
- * Ratio and proportional reasoning
- * Algebra
- * Geometry
- * Probability
- * Statistics

These strands are interrelated and a question in the final exams can include aspects of more than one strand. Alongside the thematic strand questions include a substantial element of problem solving.

There are two tiers of entry and student study a programme targeting one of these. The two tiers are Foundation (covering grades 1 to 5), and Higher (covering grades 4 to 9, and intended for those who are likely to be secure in a grade 6 or better).

ASSESSMENT

GCSE Mathematics, for both foundation tier and higher tier, is assessed through three written exam papers.

- * All material can be assessed on any of the three papers.
- * All papers are taken in the Summer of Year 11. Each paper lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- * Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper. Papers 2 and 3 are calculator papers.

POST 16 OPPORTUNITIES

Mathematics is required to study many subjects beyond year 11.

To study A-levels some providers require a 4 or higher in maths for any subject. Many subjects will have higher mathematical requirements, such as the sciences and social sciences. Vocational courses often require you to attain a grade 3 or 4 or higher to enter at certain levels.

For those who enjoy the subject Mathematics can be studied as one or two A-Levels. Both of these options are highly valued by Higher Education providers in a range of courses from Law and Sociology, to Physics and Mathematics.