



GCSE Maths – Frequently Asked Questions

Which exam board do you use?	AQA. The content of GCSE Maths is the same for all the exam boards; we have chosen AQA because we like the structure of their papers.
How many exams are there?	Three. All the papers are 90 minutes, and worth 80 marks each. The first paper is non-calculator; for the other two you need a calculator.
How do the tiers work?	<p>There are two tiers: Foundation and Higher.</p> <p>On Foundation, students can get grades 1 – 5.</p> <p>On Higher, students can get grades 3 – 9.</p> <p>The exam certificate doesn't say which tier a student took, and the questions aiming for grades 4 and 5 are the same on both tiers. We will always enter students for the tier which gives them the best possible chance of getting the best possible grade.</p>
Might I have to re-sit my GCSE Maths?	When you leave school and move on, if you haven't yet got a grade 4 (or higher!) then under current government rules you will be expected to re-sit GCSE Maths; your new school/college will arrange both the teaching and the exam entry.
What topics are covered during GCSE Maths?	You won't notice any real difference! GCSE Maths has all the types of Maths you are already working on (Number; Algebra; Geometry; Ratio/Proportion; Data/Statistics). You'll just carry on from where you are now.
What revision guide should I get?	We will organise revision guides and workbooks (CGP) through WisePay in Year 10.
Will I be in a different class in Year 10?	Probably not. We did a big reorganisation between Y8 and Y9. Most students will stay in their current class, but there is always some movement – we always want to make sure students are in the best class based on the scheme of work they should be doing.
What grade do I need in maths for my college/sixth form course?	<p>That will depend on the college/school and course.</p> <p>For A-level maths you will probably need to get at least a grade 7.</p> <p>For any other courses you'll need to check with the college/school.</p>

Level 2 Further Maths – Frequently Asked Questions

Which exam board do you use?	AQA. The course is a Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths, but you may hear it called “GCSE Further” or “Further Maths”. It helps to bridge the gap between GCSE Maths and A-level Maths.
How many exams are there?	Two. Both papers are 1hr 45 minutes, and worth 80 marks. The first paper is non-calculator and the second paper a calculator is allowed.
How do tiers work?	There is only one tier, aiming at grades 5-9 (if you just miss the 5 you will get a 4; lower than that and you get a U!)
Do I <i>have</i> to take this course for anything?	No! It’s an enrichment opportunity, but it doesn’t make any difference to your chance of being offered a place to do A-level Maths/Further Maths.
What topics are covered on Level 2 Further Maths?	It’s a mixture of more challenging questions based on GCSE Maths, and some extra content in Algebra and Geometry. You can find the specification here: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/mathematics/specifications/AQA-8365-SP-2018.PDF
When do I choose this course?	We will make decisions towards the end of Year 10 to make sure you are in the correct class in Year 11.
Why isn’t this listed in the options booklet as a choice?	This course is studied by students in one or two classes, and is taught alongside GCSE, within normal Maths lessons. These classes tend to go quicker through the content of GCSE Maths in Year 10 in order to make time to complete the topics for Level 2 Further Maths in Year 11.
How/when do I find out more?	If you are in a class where we are considering studying Further Maths in addition to GCSE Maths, we will give more details about this course during Year 10.