

Core Maths

Qualification: Core Maths Level 3 Certificate

Exam Board: AQA

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/mathematical-studies-1350/specification-at-a-glance>

Exam Dates: End of May

Why do this course?

- 1) The numerical and statistical content in other subjects has increased, and you will really improve your experience in these subjects at A-Level if you continue to study Maths to a higher level than GCSE.
- 2) Employers pay a premium for employees who have continued maths beyond GCSE level.
- 3) Many university courses need maths that goes beyond GCSE – economic history, sociology, psychology, geography, biology, for example – and you might be advantaged as an applicant if you offer a higher standard of mathematics when applying.
- 4) It's interesting! This is an applied maths qualification and we work with real problems and real data and discuss what we have found.

What's it worth?

Equivalent to an AS level, so up to 40% of the UCAS points of a full A-level.

What's involved?

2 hours of taught lessons per week and independent study on top of this.

The course content includes: mathematical modelling, statistics including statistical problem solving, financial mathematics, risk analysis, exponentials, graphs and gradients and geometry and measures. Using technology to solve mathematical problems is also covered.

There are two 1.5-hour exam papers every year, each worth half of the final grade. Paper 1 covers all compulsory content, while paper 2 also covers a range of statistical skills. Each paper is worth 60 marks.

Should I do it?

YES if you:

- have a level 4 or above at GCSE
- are taking an A level subject with a large amount of numerical or statistical content (such as Biology, Psychology, History, or Geography)
- want to enhance your application to University or to an apprenticeship
- are thinking of a career in education or health, where a good grasp of statistical thinking and risk analysis is very important
- are NOT taking A-Level Maths – this is not a qualification you can stack
- enjoy mathematical and logical thinking and want to keep on with applied mathematics.