

Maths GCSE

Type

GCSE

Level

2

Assessment

100% exam

Awarding body

AQA

Entry Requirements

You will require a Grade D at GCSE Mathematics to study for this course. Pre Advanced Programme students or students with a Grade D at Foundation Tier will take the standard one year route, as will BSFC FSMQ graduates. Advanced Programme students with a Grade D at Intermediate Tier will aim for a 'fast track' November sitting and, if successful in the January results, will complete the course then. Otherwise, a further sitting in June will be taken.

About the subject

Mathematics is the study of structure. GCSE provides a grounding in the understanding of numbers, shapes, data, algebra and relationships. GCSE Mathematics is required for many jobs (see overleaf) and the topics have clear and obvious associations with Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Business Studies, Geography and Computing. Perhaps less apparently, there are strong links, both aesthetic and practical, with Art, Design, Music, Psychology, Law, Sociology and Sports Studies. Mathematics is the single most useful and adaptable qualification to have, not to mention one of the most (if not *the* most) respected!

Standard Course

Assessment Unit	Name	Type of Assessment	Date of Exam	Weighting
Module 1	Handling Data	Written Exam (1½ hours)	Mid November	18%
Module 2	Not applicable from this year			
Module 3	Number	Written Exam (1½ hours)	Early March	27%
Module 4	Not applicable from this year			
Module 5	Core	2 Written Exams (1¼ hours each)	June	55%

Fast Track Course

Assessment Unit	Name	Type of Assessment	Date of Exam	Weighting
Varying	As close as possible to that studied at school	Written Exam(s) (varying lengths)	November	Varying (mostly 80%)
As Standard Course (if unsuccessful in November resit)	As Standard Course	As Standard Course	As Standard Course with Modules 1&3 concurrent.	As Standard Course

Maths GCSE at BSFC

Module 1 – Handling Data

This module (worth 11% on fast-track, 18% on one-year) looks at data and includes topics such as averages (can a union leader and a manager both be right when quoting differing average pay packets?), probability (how likely are you to contract 'bird flu'?) and correlation (is it true that 'the less cholesterol, the longer the life'?).

Module 2 – Coursework (Handling Data)*

This module (worth 10% on-fast-track) allows you to use the skills learned in Module 1 in a project of your own. It will not be taken by one-year students.

Module 3 – Number & Algebra

This module (worth 19% on fast-track, 27% on one-year), deals with what most employers are keen on – percentages, fractions and decimals! We also spend time on prime numbers, essential to internet security, and some algebra.

Module 4 – Coursework (Number and Algebra)*

This module (worth 10% on fast-track) allows you to use the algebraic skills learned in Module 3 in a project of your own. It will not be taken by one-year students.

Module 5 – Core

This module (worth 50% on fast-track, 55% on one-year) contains the major topics of GCSE such as algebra, graphs, area, volume, transformations and Pythagoras.

*Notes – the above picture is temporarily complex due to the new Government requirement GCSE Mathematics to have no coursework element; 'fast track' students as much as possible will use exam boards they are familiar with at first; there are opportunities for resits at various times in the year.

We aim to provide a course which whilst demanding is enjoyable, stimulating and relevant to your understanding of the world in which we live. Learning will be offered via lectures, discussion, interactive whiteboard activities, PC software (graphs, spreadsheets, word processing in mathematical contexts, etc), practical work, internet research, videos, audio material and wider reading, promoting both class-based and independent learning. You should expect to have at least 1-2 hours of work outside of the classroom each week.

What next?

Mathematics qualifications improve your chances of employment considerably – most jobs include some degree of measurement, money handling and mental arithmetic and a large number of jobs will require some use of areas such as percentages. Whatever job you go for, a maths qualification very clearly demonstrates that you are willing to face a difficult challenge and stick with it. It shows employers and universities that you have powers of analysis, reasoning and problem solving that other candidates may not be able to offer. Going to the shops, playing tennis, darts, DIY, renting/buying a house, sorting a bank account, tax, income and nearly anything else you can think of involves numbers.