



Core Maths

What is Core Maths?

Core Maths aims to provide students with a “maths for life” education. Students who take this will be able to keep their mathematical skills sharp without committing to the demands of the full A-Level Maths course.

Studying Core Maths helps students to develop their quantitative and problem-solving skills, as well as improving fluency and confidence with mathematical content within other A-Levels they may be taking, such as Sociology, Psychology, Geography and Business Studies.

It is designed to be studied as a 1-year AS qualification alongside the three chosen A-Level subjects.

What Will You Study?

All students will study the following modules:

Maths for personal finance – Calculating interest rates, tax bands, national insurance, inflation and budgeting

Analysis of data – understanding data collection and sampling, averages, spread and data representation

Estimation – the mathematics modelling cycle, handling assumptions, and Fermi estimations

Critical analysis of data and models – interpreting statistics and spreadsheet models

Alongside this, students will select one of the following options to study further:

Statistical Techniques – focusing on the normal distribution, probabilities, estimation, correlation and regression

Critical Path and Risk Analysis – covers project management, Gantt charts, expectation and cost-benefit analysis

Graphical Techniques – exploring graphical methods and models for rates of change such as exponential growth and decay

Who Is This Course For?

Students who have secured a grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths

Students who have an interest in maths or a career that involves Maths but do not want to study the full A-Level Maths course.

How Will You Be Assessed?

At the end of the course, you will sit two 90-minute exams. You are allowed to use a calculator in both assessments.

Paper 1 (worth 50%) assesses the core foundational concepts and applied skills that are covered in the four compulsory modules of the course

Paper 2 (worth 50%) assesses understanding of the optional module the student has selected.

Both assessments have an emphasis on problem solving within real-world situations and being able to communicate ideas and thoughts clearly, rather than the rote, procedural learning you have encountered during GCSE Maths.

What are the advantages of studying core maths alongside A-Levels?

Core maths is looked upon favourably by many Universities when they are considering applications for degree study. They recognise the transferable skills and knowledge that students gain from completing the course. The course offers valuable preparation for the skills needed for subjects where A-Level maths is not a requirement.

In terms of UCAS points, Core Maths has the same number of points as an AS level qualification and therefore contributes to the overall UCAS points required for university admissions.

Some Universities have shown their recognition for Core Maths by making alternative or reduced offers for students who have taken Core Maths alongside other qualifications.

A number of university courses such as medicine or teaching require applicants to take additional admissions tests with some mathematical content. Studying core maths helps students maintain the confidence and skillset to be successful in these assessments.