

Core Maths

Key information



Advanced Mathematics
Support Programme®

“ Core Maths is the most significant development for 16+ maths education in a generation ”

Professor Paul Glaister

Reading University

What is Core Maths?

Core Maths is an umbrella term for a type of level 3 post-16 maths qualification. These courses can be taken alongside A levels and vocational qualifications. They are equal in size to an AS level, and carry the same UCAS tariff.

Core Maths focuses on applying maths to solve real-life problems, and has been developed with support from employers and higher education institutions. The courses are designed to:

- consolidate and build mathematical understanding
- foster the ability to think mathematically and apply maths in unfamiliar situations
- support students' learning in other subjects requiring quantitative skills
- prepare students for the real-life mathematical demands of further study and employment

What subjects can Core Maths support?

Studying Core Maths helps students develop skills that support the quantitative aspects of many level 3 courses. These include, but are not limited to:

- Business and Economics
- Sports Science and PE
- Geography
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Biology and Environmental Science
- Health and Social Care

All Core Maths qualifications include:

- Working with data
- Understanding risk and probability
- Understanding variation in statistics
- Using exponential functions to model growth and decay
- Interpreting solutions in the context of the problem
- Understanding sources of error and bias when problem-solving

Most Core Maths qualifications also look at percentage change, interpretation of graphs, financial maths, the Normal distribution, correlation and much more.

For more information, visit

amsp.org.uk/teachers/core-maths/curriculum

Who is Core Maths for?

Core Maths is designed to support students who achieve grade 4 or above in GCSE Mathematics, but decide not to study AS or A level Mathematics.

The qualification is particularly valuable for any student planning a future that requires good quantitative skills, whether that be in higher education or employment.

Degrees such as Biology, Geography and Business Studies all expect a high level of mathematical competency that can be supported by studying Core Maths.





Why should students have the opportunity to take Core Maths?

Core Maths can support and deepen the mathematical learning already required by other A level qualifications, such as Psychology and Biology. It also equips your students for the next stage of their life, whether that be following an academic or vocational pathway. Many leading universities endorse Core Maths and some – like the University of Bath – make reduced offers for Core Maths students.

By offering the full range of advanced maths qualifications at your school or college, you can enrich your maths culture and give your students the opportunity to choose a post-GCSE maths pathway that is best for them. Evidence shows that a wider advanced maths offering increases post-16 retention, improves results and broadens your students' opportunities for the future.

How can Core Maths be delivered?

Some schools and colleges have timetabled Core Maths lessons as a standard block alongside other A level and/or vocational courses. Others have used an 'enrichment' slot to timetable tuition for Core Maths.

It is recommended that the course includes 180 guided learning hours, the same as an AS qualification. It is usually taught over two years, although some schools and colleges offer Core Maths in one year.

Core Maths is often taught by maths teachers, but it can be taught by teachers from other subject areas if they have appropriate mathematical knowledge. The Advanced Mathematics Support Programme offers free conferences for teachers of non-mathematical

The Core Maths Qualifications

The specific qualifications currently offered by awarding organisations are:

- AQA Level 3 Certificate Mathematical Studies
- City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Using and Applying Mathematics
- NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics for Everyday Life
- OCR Level 3 Certificate in Core Maths A (MEI)
- OCR Level 3 Certificate in Core Maths B (MEI)
- Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Certificate in Mathematics in Context

All these qualifications develop ideas and skills that support maths in other subjects.

Core Maths qualifications carry the same UCAS tariff points as an AS level and are graded A to E.

subjects to explore the best ways of teaching quantitative skills and to introduce them to Core Maths.

Is funding available to help with offering Core Maths?

If your school or college is increasing student participation in advanced maths, you may qualify for additional funding through the Advanced Maths Premium. For Core Maths, the premium is £600 per 'additional' student. Visit amsp.org.uk/leadership/funding for information about funding your Core Maths provision.

What support is available to help establish Core Maths?

The **Advanced Mathematics Support Programme** (AMSP) is a government-funded initiative that aims to increase participation in level 3 maths qualifications. We offer support and guidance on setting up Core Maths provision, and run professional development for teachers to develop pedagogy and subject knowledge. We also offer free resources to support Core Maths teaching when your school or college registers with the AMSP. Visit amsp.org.uk/teachers/core-maths for information about the support available.

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