



Advanced Mathematics
Support Programme®



University admissions tests for maths

How to help your students prepare for these tests, gain confidence and develop their mathematical competency.

Why should students take university admissions tests?

Several prestigious universities ask students to take an admissions test as a requirement of their offer, and increasingly universities are making reduced offers based on a strong performance in these examinations. It's therefore important that students have the opportunity to prepare for the admission tests required or encouraged by universities they have applied to.

University admissions tests often use questions similar in style to undergraduate exams to assess advanced problem-solving skills. Studying for them helps to develop mathematical competency and supports future learning. This means that students who plan to take a maths or maths-related degree can benefit from preparing for these tests, even if the courses they are applying for do not require them.



Support for your students

The AMSP provides a wide range of support to prepare students for the STEP, MAT and TMUA tests:

- Year 12 or Year 13 students can join local **Regular Problem Solving Classes**. The classes usually run for around 20 weeks and take place outside of school hours. They are designed to develop students' problem solving skills and give them the confidence to apply for universities that include an admissions test in their offer.
- Year 12 students can benefit from our **Problem Solving Matters** course, which is designed to prepare them for taking the MAT and/or the TMUA. The course consists of face-to-face study days, supported with summer assignments and online follow-up sessions.
- Our one-day **Student & Teacher Problem Solving Conferences** offer you the opportunity to attend with your Year 12 or Year 13 students. These support students with developing their problem-solving skills, while you are briefed on the expectations of university admissions tests and the support available.

Additional events are arranged by our local Area Coordinators. You can find support in your area by **visiting amsp.org.uk/events**.

The AMSP also offers a range of resources for supporting students in preparing university admissions tests.

Support for you

! Our professional development courses and student support events are all **FREE** or available at low cost.

We also offer professional development for teachers wishing to support their students with university admissions tests. In some cases, subsidies are available to enable more teachers to participate.

- We run several **one-day courses** that explore how to develop students' problem-solving skills for admissions tests, and how to support their transition to undergraduate study.
- You can accompany your Year 12 or Year 13 students to our one-day **Student & Teacher Problem Solving Conferences**. These support students with developing their problem-solving skills, while you are briefed on the expectations of university admissions tests and the support available.
- We also offer two flexible, web-based On Demand Professional Development (ODPD) courses: **Preparing for the STEP** and **Preparing for the MAT and the TMUA**.

These use short videos and activities to help you become familiar with the demands of university admissions tests. There's also the opportunity to interact and collaborate via online forums. You can sign up at any time and complete the courses at your own pace.

Additional courses are run by our local Area Coordinators. You can find support in your area by visiting amsp.org.uk/events



What are the university admissions tests for maths?

There are three main university admissions tests for Mathematics degrees.

STEP

The Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP) consists of three papers, each examined in June of Year 13. When making conditional offers, universities may ask students to sit one or two of these STEP papers, depending on the requirements of their degree programme.

MAT

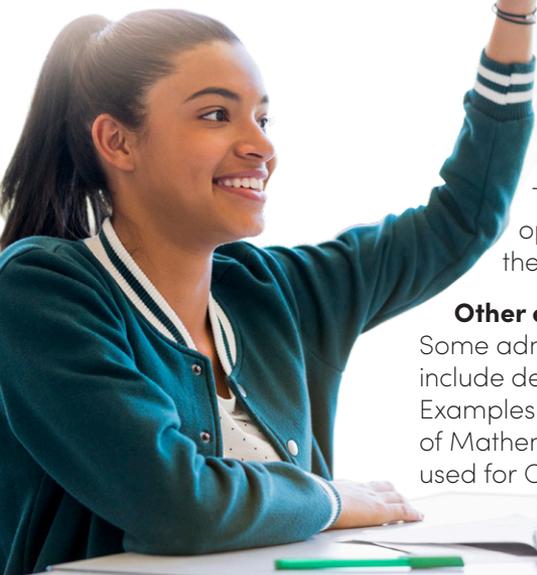
The Mathematics Admissions Test (MAT) is a single paper, examined in October of Year 13. It is designed to be approachable by all students, including those not studying A level Further Mathematics.

TMUA

The Test of Mathematics for University Admission (TMUA) consists of two papers, taken consecutively in October of Year 13. Results are released directly to students, and applicants can choose whether they'd like to share their performance with universities. Taking the TMUA is therefore a risk-free opportunity for students to demonstrate their mathematical potential.

Other entrance tests

Some admissions tests for other degree courses include demanding mathematical content. Examples include the CTMUA (Cambridge Test of Mathematics for University Admission – this is used for Computer Science), the PAT (The Physics Admissions Test), and the TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment).



What is the AMSP?



The **Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP)** is a government-funded initiative that aims to increase participation and improve the teaching of 11-16 maths, Core Maths, AS/A level Mathematics and AS/A level Further Mathematics.

We offer:

- Free guidance on introducing and sustaining advanced maths options, including strategies for offering Core Maths and AS/A level Further Mathematics
- A wide range of free/low cost flexible professional development for:
 - Higher Tier GCSE Mathematics
 - Core Maths
 - AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics
 - Supporting students with university maths admissions tests
- Free teaching and learning resources
- Free/low cost enrichment events and materials for students to encourage them to study maths beyond GCSE and to prepare for university mathematics admissions tests

Find out more by visiting amsp.org.uk.



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The AMSP website offers everything from classroom resources to curriculum guidance. If you'd like to be kept in the loop, make sure you subscribe to our **Stay Informed** mailing list to receive regular updates on the AMSP's activities.