

Core Mathematics

Please note that this is a one year course to be studied alongside three other subjects

What is Core Maths?

Core Maths B is a Level 3 qualification for students with a GCSE grade 5 and above who want to continue to studying maths but not at AS/A Level. The course emphasises and encourages these key outcomes:

- Sound understanding of mathematical concepts, skills and techniques from GCSE and beyond
- Competency in interpreting and explaining solutions to problems in context
- Confidence in applying mathematical and statistical thinking and reasoning in a range of new and unfamiliar contexts to solve real-life problems
- Fluency in procedural skills, common problem-solving skills and strategies

Entry Requirements: GCSE 5 in Maths and above

Exam Board: OCR (MEI)

Subject Leader: Mr P Webb – pwebb@taptonschoool.co.uk

Main Syllabus Area

- Modelling
- Statistics for data analysis
- Statistical problem solving (SPS)
- Finance
- Risk
- Estimation Skills
- The use of technology – in particular, using spreadsheets

Method of Assessment

There are two components:

- Paper 1 - Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning – 2 hour written paper (50%), and
- Paper 2 - Statistical Problem Solving – 2 hour written paper (50%)

Should I do Core Maths?

The course has been designed to maintain and develop real-life skills. What you study is not purely theoretical or abstract; it can be applied on a day-to-day basis in work, study or life and the course will include a financial maths element. It is designed to help with other A-level subjects – in particular with Science, Geography, Business Studies, Psychology and Economics.

The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in higher education; Core Maths will help you keep up with these essential skills. On average, students who study maths after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning prospects.

Will it be recognised by universities and employers?

This qualification is designed to support post-16 learners with the mathematical and statistical needs of their further study of other subjects, as well as for employment and everyday life. Universities have come

out in strong support of it. Even subjects like history now recognise the importance of statistics and so this qualification will help you hit the ground running at university. The course will carry the same number of UCAS points as an AS qualification.

Employers from all different sectors are also firmly behind the Core Maths qualification. Many roles in today's workplace require high levels of budget management and problem-solving skills; Core Maths will be a useful tool in equipping you with these skills.

Why haven't I heard of it?

Core Maths is a relatively new course and is a part of a wider initiative to improve maths in England – and you could be a part of it. Forward-thinking sixth forms (like Tapton) and colleges pioneered the qualification in September 2014 and it has been available to all schools and colleges since September 2015.

Links with other subjects

Science, Geography, Business Studies, Psychology, Economics, History amongst many others.

For Further Information visit:

- <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/core-maths/b-mei-level-3-certificate-h869/>
- <http://www.core-maths.org/>