

Teach **Level 3** **Mathematical** **Studies** with us

A flexible Core Maths qualification which enables learners to apply everyday maths skills



About Level 3 Mathematical Studies

Level 3 Mathematical Studies is our Core Maths qualification.

Core Maths is designed for learners with a grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths who want to take the subject further, but aren't moving forward with another Level 3 maths course.

The use of real-life scenarios will appeal to learners who prefer a less abstract approach and appreciate the value of everyday maths and problem-solving skills. It will also support them through further/higher education and the learned skills will be useful in future employment.

At 180 guided learning hours and with three options to choose from, Level 3 Mathematical Studies is a valuable addition to any learners personal learning plan.

Qualification aims

A course of study leading to this qualification should enable learners to:

- study a maths curriculum that complements other areas of their study, leading to a greater understanding of the application of maths in these areas
- develop mathematical modelling, evaluating and reasoning skills
- learn about personal finance
- solve problems, some of which will not be well defined and may not have a unique solution
- solve substantial and real life problems encountered by adults
- use ICT as an exploratory tool for developing mathematical understanding and when solving problems
- develop skills in the communication, selection, use and interpretation of maths
- enjoy maths and develop confidence in using it.



“I’ve found this course a lot more relevant than previous maths lessons. The bits on personal finance have really helped me to understand what to expect in the future and I found it interesting to learn about how companies and journalists can present their statistics in ways to suit their message.”

An AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies learner, 2023.

Did you know?

- The qualification has the same UCAS tariff points as an AS
- It is included in school and college performance tables for the 16 to 19 Level 3 maths measure
- It can be taught over one or two years
- It counts as the maths element of the TechBacc
- It qualifies for the £600 Advanced Maths Premium

How did we develop the qualification?

To create our Level 3 Mathematical Studies qualification, we:

- liaised with over 75 schools and colleges and spoke to more than 100 teachers
- sought opinion from the Universities of East Anglia, Brighton, Leeds, Warwick and Plymouth, and departments including maths, social science, sciences, education and technology
- spoke to industry employers including Barclays, Southern Water and Siemens
- talked to subject associations including NCETM, Nuffield Foundation and Royal Statistical Society.

“Our students find Mathematical Studies to be a valuable addition to their Level 3 study programme. They enjoy extending their maths beyond what they learnt at GCSE and like the relevance it has to their wider studies and the application to ‘real life’”

Tom Messenger, Head of Mathematics and Philosophy, Godalming College, 2023





What subjects can Level 3 Mathematical Studies support?

Our Level 3 Mathematical Studies qualification can help support learners progression in other subject areas such as:

- Psychology
- Sciences
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Geography
- Economics
- Design and Technology

You'll have access to the best free resources on All About Maths, our online resource site for maths teachers.

Free resources on All About Maths

Assessment resources:

- Past papers
- Mock Exam Analysers: help learners understand and learn from their performance on mock exams
- Practice papers
- Additional practice questions

Teaching resources:

- Route maps (for teaching over 1- or 2-years)
- Teaching guidance
- Lesson plans and supporting resources
- Maths content in other A-levels resources

Take a look at our past papers and mark schemes to show you what our assessment looks like. You can download these materials from: **allaboutmaths.aqa.org.uk**

We'll continue to work closely with teachers and the Advanced Maths Support Programme, who provide free resources for Core Maths, to make sure you have all you need to teach our specification: **amsp.org.uk/teachers/core-maths**

How is the assessment structured?

Paper 1

(compulsory content, taken by all learners) assesses:

- analysis of data
- maths for personal finance
- estimation.

and

Paper 2

(optional content – learners take one paper only)

Papers 2A, 2B, and 2C all assess critical analysis of given data and models including spreadsheets and tabular data

Either paper 2A assesses:

- statistical techniques.

Or paper 2B assesses:

- critical path and risk analysis.

Or paper 2C assesses:

- graphical techniques.

For all exam papers

- 90 minutes
- 60 marks
- scientific/graphics calculator allowed
- no optional questions
- copy of Preliminary Material available in advance on Centre Services and a clean copy of Preliminary Material to be provided in the exam room.

Why choose AQA?

- Level 3 Mathematical Studies is the most flexible Core Maths qualification available.
- With three options to choose from for paper 2, you can create a course which meets your learners' needs.
- Our assessment is designed to fairly test and apply mathematics and problem solving skills relevant to learners' further studies and career.
- It's all about using and applying maths. With 80% of the maths content taken from the GCSE, the emphasis is on helping learners to use the maths they already know to explore, understand and solve problems.
- Level 3 Mathematical Studies has been designed to support learners' other studies.
- The majority of schools and colleges choose AQA for Core Maths.

"I was unsure whether Core Maths was a subject I would find useful or interesting however it has become my most enjoyable lesson and have found it very applicable to real life. I like the challenge of maths and I'm sure my experience of doing this qualification will come in great use in the future."

An AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies student, 2020

Get in touch

Our teams are experts in assessment. We're also experts at giving you the support you need, when you need it.

Contact the team on: **0161 957 3852**

or email: **maths@aqa.org.uk**

Follow us on X/Twitter: **[@AQAMaths](https://twitter.com/AQAMaths)**

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