Mathematical Studies
(2-year course)

Overview

The AQA Mathematical Studies qualification is ideal for students who have achieved at least a grade 5 at GCSE and have a passion for Mathematics but do not want to commit to the full A level course. Mathematical Studies also complements other courses that include statistical analysis such as, Biology, Psychology, Geography or Economics.

What will I study and learn?

You will study statistics, data analysis, estimation and critical analysis. There is also a personal finance module to prepare you for life after education. The course doesn't cover topics such as calculus and logarithms and so, if you are thinking of university study in physics, engineering, or some economics courses, for example, it is likely that you would need A level Mathematics rather than Mathematical Studies. It is recommended that you check university entry requirements in such cases.

What skills will I develop?

Taking this course shows future employers/university admissions that you are a logical thinker with excellent problem-solving ability. This is usually a two-year course and will be your elective for both the Lower and Upper Sixth, with the exam being taken at the end of the second year, leading to a Level 3 qualification (roughly equivalent to the demands of half an A level).

How will I be assessed?

The course is linear, which means public exams will be taken at the end of the course. During the course, module tests and mock exams will be used to help guide your progress. There is no coursework for this option. You will receive a Level 3 qualification which carries UCAS points, approximately equivalent to an AS level (although not appropriate for university courses which require an AS Level in Mathematics).

Examinations

There are two exams, of equal weighting, taken at the end of the course. The first covers the first three modules (Data Analysis, Financial Maths, and Estimations), and the second covers the final four modules (Further Data Analysis, The Normal Distribution, and Correlation).

Further Mathematics
(AS level or A level)

Overview

A level Further Mathematics can be studied as one of your main A levels, or in addition to your three A levels, as long as you are studying Maths at A level. To study A level or AS level Further Mathematics you are required to achieve a minimum of a grade 8 at GCSE.