AQA Certificate Level 3 Mathematical Studies

Entry criteria – achieve a grade 5 or above in mathematics.

Mathematics is, inherently, a sequential subject. There is a progression of material through all levels at which the subject is studied. It is assumed that students will already have confidence and competence in the content presented in standard type within the GCSE mathematics criteria. Students will make use of elements of this content when addressing problems within this Level 3 Certificate Mathematical Studies specification, but this is not explicitly set out in subject content. This Level 3 Certificate Mathematical Studies specification aims to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in GCSE mathematics.

The level 3 Certificate in Mathematical studies is an A/S level studied over 2 years; it will consist of three externally examined papers. Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year. It does contribute UCAS points but is not a good choice for someone wanting to study university courses that require Mathematics.

This is a good choice for those students studying biology, physics, geography, economics, business studies and psychology.

It should not be taken by students already taking Mathematics at A Level.

Compulsory content

- 3.1 Analysis of data
- 3.2 Maths for personal finance
- 3.3 Estimation
- 3.4 Critical analysis of given data and models

Optional content

- 3.5 The normal distribution
- 3.6 Probabilities and estimation
- 3.7 Correlation and regression
- 3.8 Critical path and risk analysis
- 3.9 Expectation
- 3.10 Cost benefit analysis
- 3.11 Graphical methods
- 3.12 Rates of change
- 3.13 Exponential functions

Paper 1 – 1 hour 30 minutes

Assess 3.1, 3.2, 3.3.

Paper 2A – 1 hour 30 minutes

Assess 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7

Or

Paper 2B – 1 hour 30 minutes

Assess 3.4, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10

Or

Paper 2C – 1 hour 30 minutes

Assess 3.4, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13