![CCEA logo]

Rewarding Learning

GCSE
Mathematics

STUDENT
GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This specification has two tiers: Foundation and Higher.

- Each tier offers a choice of units that are suited to a wide range of abilities and enable you to demonstrate achievement.
- The assessment model enables you to monitor your progress and offers opportunities to improve your results.
- Each assessment unit gives you enough time to consider different problem-solving strategies and decide on the best approach to take.

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

This specification aims to encourage you to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts;
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems;
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions; and
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

This specification has two tiers: Foundation and Higher. Each tier offers you a choice of units suited to a wide range of abilities and enable you to demonstrate achievement.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION?

The assessment model enables you to monitor your progress and offers opportunities to improve your results. Each assessment unit gives you enough time to consider various problem-solving strategies and decide on the best approach.

You must use calculators in assessment units M1, M2, M3 and M4 and in Paper 2 of each Completion Test (M5, M6, M7 and M8). You must not use calculators in Paper 1 of each Completion Test. Calculators should have the following functions: +, -, x, ÷ , √, xy and single memory. These are the minimum functions required.

For the Higher Tier papers, you must use electronic calculators with trigonometric and relevant statistical functions. For the Foundation Tier papers, you must use electronic calculators with relevant statistical functions.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

FOUNDATION TIER: GRADES C*– F WILL BE ASSESSED

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTINGS	AVAILABILITY
Unit M1 or M2: Foundation Tier	External written examination with calculator 1 hour 45 mins	45 %	Summer from 2018 and January from 2019

Unit M5 or M6: Foundation Tier Completion Test	Two external written examinations:
	• Paper 1 without calculator
	  1 hour
	
	• Paper 2 with calculator
	  1 hour
		55 %	Summer from 2019 and January from 2020

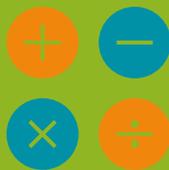## HIGHER TIER: GRADES A*– C WILL BE ASSESSED

CONTENT	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTINGS	AVAILABILITY
Unit M3 or M4: Higher Tier	External written examination with calculator 2 hours	45 %	Summer from 2018 and January from 2019

Unit M7 or M8: Higher Tier Completion Test	Two external written examinations:
	• Paper 1 without calculator
	  1 hour 15 mins
	
	• Paper 2 with calculator
	  1 hour 15 mins
		55 %	Summer from 2019 and January from 2020

FOUNDATION TIER

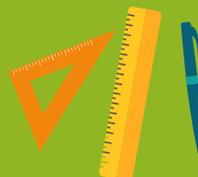HIGHER TIER

Unit M1 or M2
Foundation Tier

+

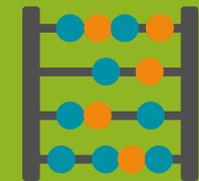Unit M5 or M6
**Foundation Tier
Completion Test**

Unit M3 or M4
Higher Tier

+

Unit M7 or M8
**Higher Tier
Completion Test**

45%   **55%**   **45%**   **55%**

WHAT CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES WILL I DEVELOP?

This specification builds on the learning experiences from Key Stage 3 as required for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum. It also offers opportunities for you to contribute to the aim and objectives of the Curriculum at Key Stage 4, and to continue to develop the Cross-Curricular Skills and the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. The extent of the development of these skills and capabilities will be dependent on the teaching and learning methodology used.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN MATHEMATICS?

Just about everything! People with mathematics degrees and other qualifications can go into: accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, the civil service, design, construction, astrophysics and many other careers.

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