

# Core Mathematics

## AQA Specification



### General information:

Core Maths is a Level 3 qualification which continues to develop students' mathematical skills and thinking beyond GCSE level. It sits comfortably between GCSE and A Level mathematics and enables students to continue to improve their mathematical thinking to solve problems drawn from other subjects, work and real-life.

The mathematical content of the Core Maths course is very useful in supporting other A level subjects which involve statistical analysis, such as biology, geography, geology, psychology and business. It focuses on using mainly familiar mathematical ideas in a range of contexts to help prepare students to be competent and confident in using mathematics in their studies, careers and lives.

Core Maths attracts up to 20 UCAS points (the same as an AS qualification) and many universities will make an offer including Core Maths with reduced A level requirements.

### Course content:

The AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies course contains compulsory modules on:

- Analysis of Data – this includes calculating statistics such as the mean, median, mode range and standard deviation, as well as producing statistical graphs such as histograms, cumulative frequency.
- Personal Finance – this studies income tax, national insurance, student loans and mortgages.
- Critical Analysis – involves analysing and critiquing other peoples' statistical reports.
- Fermi Estimation – a method used to estimate for a value with little or no actual data by making justified guesses about quantities.

Along with an optional module for which we have chosen to study:

- Graphical techniques – this will cover exponential and logarithmic graphs which are commonly used in other A level subjects.

Your further education or career is likely to require critical analysis involving data and Core Maths gives you the ability to construct a reasoned and structured argument centred on the data supplied.

### How is the course taught and assessed?

Core Maths will be offered at BWS as an addition to three A-Levels for students who are NOT studying A Level mathematics. It will be studied as a 1 year course in Year 12 with two double lessons per week taught by mathematics subject specialists. The lessons will have a different feel to GCSE mathematics in that they will often consider open ended problems, in a real world context.

The course is assessed via two external examinations (in May), each of 1 hour 30 minutes and of equal weighting, and the results received prior to university applications.

Entry requirements:	Results information:	Top destinations for students:
Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths is a minimum expectation.	BWS achieved excellent results in its' first year of running this course with 18 of the 23 students achieving the top grade A.	Helps support a wide variety of courses at Oxford / Cambridge and other Russell group universities.