

GCSE Maths – what has changed?

GCSE Maths is changing and getting more demanding for everyone.

- There is more content to teach with **harder topics being introduced**.
- There is a **greater emphasis on problem-solving and mathematical reasoning**, with more marks in the GCSE exams being allocated to these higher-order skills.
- The **total examination time is increasing** with all exams taken at the end of the course.
- Students will also have to **memorise formulae**.
- There is a **new grade structure from 9 (highest) to 1**, with fewer marks at the lower grades and more marks at the higher grades. Falling below the standard required for a 1 will result in a U.
- Maths will continue to be tiered, though the split will be different and **we cannot assume that the same profile of students should enter for Higher and Foundation** as at present. The Foundation Tier will give access to grades 1-5, and the Higher Tier 4-9.
- There are currently no grade descriptors, nor any indication of what “expected progress” will look like for students with different starting points. However, we do know that the new grade 4 will be similar in difficulty to a grade C and a 5 will be similar to a lower grade B. We also know that a grade 9 will be far more difficult to achieve than a grade A*.

Harder topics - what's moved where?

The link “Curriculum change for Maths” on the website shows which topics have moved where in the new Maths curriculum.

It shows which topics have moved from A level down to GCSE; GCSE to KS3 and KS3 to KS2.

We will be adapting schemes of works for next year in the coming weeks. We will publish these once they are produced.