



Advanced Mathematics
Support Programme®



Core Maths
Everyday maths skills for your future



Do you know
what you
want to do in
the future?

Have you thought about how maths might help you?

Continuing to study maths could make a huge difference to whether you achieve your aims. Even if you're not sure what you want to do, it will help to keep your options open.

Confidence with maths is also really useful for a wide range of careers, especially when it comes to using data, which is now being used so widely. Employers place a high value on maths skills and often use numeracy tests to filter job applicants. Students who have studied maths beyond GCSE are more likely to be successful in these kinds of tests.



I already use some of the Core Maths I've learned and I know it's going to help when I'm doing my own financial things in life.

Core Maths student



Core Maths is a relatively new qualification and, although it's not yet as common as A level Mathematics, it's becoming more widely available. If it's not currently an option for you, talk to your maths teacher to see whether your school or college could find a way of offering it. The AMSP can provide extensive support to help them, including an online platform of resources.

→ What is Core Maths?

You may not have heard of Core Maths – that's because it's a fairly new type of qualification. It's been designed to build your confidence with using maths and focuses on really useful everyday maths skills that you'll need for work and study. It's a great choice if you're not taking AS or A level Mathematics.

Core Maths is usually studied over two years alongside your A levels or vocational qualifications. It takes about half as much time as an A level. It's graded A-E and has the same UCAS points as an AS level.

→ What are the lessons like?

Core Maths lessons can be quite different to other maths lessons.

You'll meet some new topics, but you'll mostly be using maths from GCSE. Where it differs is its focus on becoming skilful at applying maths to real-life situations such as personal finance, estimating, and making the best use of resources.

You may spend more time discussing problems and explaining your thinking. Sometimes there's no single 'right' answer.

You'll also learn about working with data – when it's reasonable to make assumptions and simplifications, how to analyse data and interpret the results, and how to communicate your findings and use them to justify your argument. These skills will be useful in your other subjects and will also help you to question and criticise statements based on data, such as surprising claims made by the media.

These are all really useful skills for your future, whatever direction you go in.





“ Because there's no right or wrong answer in certain situations, it helps you to think more deeply and takes the pressure off getting the exact answer.

I completely agree, it's like you're teaching each other - 'I did it this way' or 'I saw it this way'. Instead of just seeing it as black and white, there is this grey area... and I quite like that.

Core Maths students talking about their lessons

→ Is Core Maths the right maths qualification for me?

If you achieve a grade 4 or better in GCSE Mathematics, you should consider studying maths after your GCSE.

There are several maths qualifications that you could take, and so deciding which is right for you can be confusing. Core Maths is a good choice if you:

- achieve a grade 4 or better in GCSE Maths
- are not going to study AS or A level Mathematics

Core Maths provides an opportunity to take a maths qualification alongside your other subjects. It keeps your maths skills fresh, ready for when you need them, and will help you to develop the skills you need to confidently apply maths to your other subjects and in real-life situations.





→ How will Core Maths fit in with the other subjects I'm taking?

Studying Core Maths can help you with the maths content of other A level or vocational qualifications that you choose to study.

Core Maths can usually be taken alongside three A levels, and it's a particularly useful course to take with A levels that require quantitative skills, such as:

- Biology
- Business
- Economics
- Geography
- Sociology
- Psychology



A lot of the Core Maths content is going to be used in Biology, so we get a head start, and have a good understanding of the maths we need to know. Biology students would really benefit from Core Maths.

Core Maths student





Core Maths also combines well with vocational qualifications, such as:

- Business and Administration
- Engineering and Manufacturing
- Health and Science

Core Maths will help you to understand the maths content of your other subjects, and so can boost your confidence and have a positive effect on your overall results.



I chose Core Maths to set me apart from other people when I was applying to uni.

Core Maths student





If you're thinking of studying maths, physics, engineering or a similar mathematical subject at university, please make sure you're aware of the entry requirements for that course. It's likely you'll need to study A level Mathematics and possibly also A level Further Mathematics. If that's the case, Core Maths would not be the best option for you.

→ How will Core Maths help me in the future?

Whether you already know exactly what it is you want to do or are still deciding, continuing to study maths can help you.

The skills you learn from Core Maths can be a huge help with further study. It will equip you with stronger numeracy, graphical and problem-solving skills, all of which are good preparation for the maths needed for many university courses and higher apprenticeships.

Core Maths can also help you to gain a place at some universities. Admissions departments are increasingly showing a preference for Core Maths and some may reduce their offer for courses that don't require A level Mathematics if you have a Core Maths qualification. Keeping your maths skills fresh can also help you to perform better in the maths tests needed for some degree courses.

Your confidence and fluency in maths used in everyday life will also be improved.

“The more practical and applied nature of Core Maths qualifications will give students who want to study Psychology or Business the general numerical skills they will find useful on their course. Our approach at Bath is to recognise that extra study in the right kind of maths can be really beneficial to students.”

**David Howells, Head of Undergraduate Admissions,
University of Bath**





→ So, in summary, Core Maths is...

- a course that will develop valuable maths skills
- a course that will help you with the maths in your other subjects
- for people considering university degrees in subjects that use maths, but don't need A level Mathematics
- equal in size to an AS level
- an option for any student with a GCSE Maths grade 4-9
- all about solving maths problems you will face in further study, in life and in the workplace



You gain so many practical skills. I think it's a really good qualification to have.

Core Maths student



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Want to know more?

For more information about Core Maths and other options for studying maths beyond GCSE, visit amsp.org.uk/students/gcse/what-next