



Advanced Mathematics
Support Programme®



Year 12 Regular Problem Solving Classes

Oxford

18th October 2021

Overview

A series of maths problem-solving sessions designed to give students the confidence to apply for university courses that require or take into consideration achievement in an admissions test.

These regular classes offer students the opportunity to develop mathematical problem-solving skills through discussion and collaboration. They are designed to help students to develop strategies and confidence when tackling unfamiliar problems in maths and will help with preparations for taking advanced papers such as the MAT, TMUA and STEP examinations.

At the same time, the problems used in the course are fun and rewarding. Attending the sessions will greatly enrich students' mathematical experience and help them to develop a better understanding of A level Mathematics.

Aims

- To develop initial strategies when dealing with maths problems
- To develop confidence when dealing with maths problems
- To provide some initial information about the problem solving involved in university admissions tests
- To provide a platform on which to build secure problem solving techniques
- To develop tenacity when dealing with maths problems

Who will benefit from attending?

The course is designed for any A level Mathematics students who have an enquiring mind and wish to develop their problem solving ability for their A level studies and beyond.

It is particularly useful for those students who wish to make the first steps in preparing for university admissions tests such as the MAT, TMUA and STEP examinations.

Content

The course covers a wide range of mathematical disciplines with problems. These can include

- Algebra: the difference between two squares and other identities
- Geometry: angles, triangle and circles
- Number: digits and divisibility
- Algebra: forming and solving equations
- Combinatorics: systematic counting
- Number: prime factorisation, fractions and irrationals
- Algebra: sequences and series
- Number: indices and logarithms
- Algebra: quadratics, cubics and other polynomials
- Geometry: trigonometry
- Combinatorics: further systematic counting and placement
- Geometry: coordinates and vectors
- Calculus: curve sketching and differentiation
- Calculus: integration
- Combinatorics: the binomial expansion

Materials and Equipment

If the classes are being held online, you will need access to suitable equipment. You are advised to use a headset or headphones with an inline microphone to provide the best sound quality and to prevent audio issues for other users. A laptop with a built-in webcam and microphone may be sufficient if you're in a quiet area but please take the time to check this before the session. BBB is designed to be used on a variety of platforms but you will get the best experience via a desktop or laptop computer, running either Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox as the browser.

Note: Internet Explorer and Edge are not suitable currently.

Access to GeoGebra or desmos will also be useful.

Other Information

The following problems provide a taste of the sort of problem solving that will be encountered in the classes

Problem 1: How many primes greater than two can be found that are one less than a square number?

Problem 2: How many pairs of integers can you find that satisfy the equation $(x^2 - y^2 = 45)$?

Study Schedule

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE WORKSHOPS ARE FOR STUDENTS IN STATE SCHOOLS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE ONLY.

These workshops are scheduled to run every other Monday evening during term time, from Monday 18th October, at the Maths Institute in Oxford. There will be sessions of 2 hours, 5pm to 7pm, throughout the year. If we find that there are Covid restrictions preventing us from meeting Face to Face then we will revert to Online sessions.

Dates: 18 October, 8 and 22 November, 6 December, 17 and 31 January, 14 February, 7 and 14 March, 9 May

PLEASE SIGN UP BY WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER TO GUARANTEE A PLACE FOR THE FIRST SESSION ON MONDAY 18 OCTOBER.

Key Facts

Event ref:	#8760
Audience:	Students
Target year:	Year 12
Curriculum focus:	University admissions tests, A level Mathematics, A level Further Mathematics
Mathematical focus:	Pure, Problem solving
Event format:	Student course
Event length:	20 hours
Region:	South
Venue:	The Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Andrew Wiles Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 6GG
Next session:	Mon 9th May 2022
Course times:	17:00 - 19:00

Registration

For more information, or to register for this event, please visit <https://amsp.org.uk/events/details/8760>