

St Patrick's Academy

GCSE Subject Choice

Subject Information for students:
Subject: GCSE Mathematics

What GCSE Mathematics is about:

Mathematics involves the application of mathematical techniques to every-day issues such as budgeting and problem solving. It also helps develop the student's competence in ICT through the use of spreadsheets and databases.

Course content and assessment schedule:

There are two levels of entry
(a) Higher Maths. Grades available: A* - D.
(b) Intermediate Maths, Grades available: B - E.

All candidates sit papers 3 and 4.

Those doing higher Maths sit N4 module papers 1 and 2 while those doing intermediate sit N3 papers 1 and 2.

The difference between higher and intermediate is that topics are studied in greater depth in the higher papers and some of the more difficult topics have been excluded from intermediate level papers.

Maths is assessed in 5 areas:

- Using and applying maths to everyday situations. (e.g. understanding bills, interest rates, mortgages etc).
- Algebra (use of equations to solve problems)
- Space, shape and measures (e.g. areas of rooms, units of measurement to be used etc).
- Handling data (analysing, interpreting and presenting statistics)
- Number

There is no coursework in GCSE mathematics.

Paper	Duration	% of total
1	1 hour No calculator	22%
2	1 hour	22%
3 (N3 / N4 paper 1)	1¼ hours No calculator	28%
4 (N3 / N4 Paper 1)	1¼ hours	28%

Attributes needed to succeed in the course

To succeed in Maths students need to develop the habit of continuously revising work done in class.

It is a subject where a lot of practice is important.

GCSE Maths develops your problem-solving skills and your ability to think about problems in a logical way.