

WHS GCSE MATHS INFORMATION FOR Y11 PARENTS - FEBRUARY 2022

General introduction

- Students in set 1 and set 2a are doing the Higher course, following the Edexcel exam board.
- Students in set 2b, 3, 4 are doing the Foundation course, following the OCR exam board.
- Our aim is to help all students to achieve
 - grade 4 (pass – equivalent to the old grade C)
 - grade 5 (good pass – equivalent to the old grade B/C)
- Higher students can also achieve grade 6, 7, 8, and 9 (equivalent to grade B-A* on the old grades)
- Students doing the Foundation GCSE need to learn and remember topics identified as grade 1-5 topics
- Students doing the Higher GCSE course need to learn and remember the topics identified as grade 1-9 topics.
- On the last page of this document, you can see the list of topics. On mathswatch there is a video & interactive questions for each topic. Mathswatch is our number 1 revision tool. Ask your child to show you. If your child is unable to login to mathswatch, please email umahmood@w-h-s.org.uk and you will be sent login details asap.

How will students be assessed

HIGHER... The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers. We use the EDEXCEL exam board. Below is a link to the specification that details the everything about the qualification...

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assesment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf> or just google "GCSE Maths Edexcel Specification"

- Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Each paper has 80 marks. So, the total marks for all 3 papers = 240
- Whilst grade boundaries vary each year, this is what we expect as the approximate grade boundaries...

GCSE HIGHER - EDEXCEL GRADE BOUNDARIES

	Out of	Grade 9	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3
Overall	240	210	171	141	111	90	60	45
Per paper	80	70	57	47	37	30	20	15

FOUNDATION... The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers. We use the OCR exam board. Below is a link to the specification that details the everything about the qualification...

<https://ocr.org.uk/Images/168982-specification-gcse-mathematics.pdf> or just google "GCSE Maths OCR Specification"

- Paper 2 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 1 and Paper 3.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Each paper has 100 marks
- Whilst grade boundaries vary each year, this is what we expect as the approximate grade boundaries...

GCSE FOUNDATION - OCR GRADE BOUNDARIES

	Out of	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 1
Overall	300	195	150	111	75	30
Per paper	100	65	50	37	25	10

What are the Exam dates

The dates for the **mock exams** are...

Paper 1	Monday 28th February	Afternoon	1h 30m
Paper 2	Tuesday 1st March	Morning	1h 30m
Paper 3	Thursday 3rd March	Afternoon	1h 30m

The papers will be marked and analysed after they are completed. There will be **parents evening Wednesday 30th March** when you can talk to subject teachers about how they have done, and about how they can improve further.

These are **the final exam dates** are...

Paper 1	Friday 20th May	Morning	1h 30m
Paper 2	Tuesday 7th June	Morning	1h 30m
Paper 3	Monday 13 th June	Morning	1h 30m

How can parents help plan for success in the GCSE exams?

- We have 4 one-hour maths lessons per week, plus a 45-minute period 6 session every Tuesday. **Attendance and punctuality to lessons** is vital. If you have to be off, try to join live on Teams so you don't miss out. Every lesson is crucial. If students miss school, they must catch up on missed work. **Parents can help by reinforcing the importance of attendance and punctuality.**
- Students are set homework tasks every week to help reinforce and consolidate the learning in school. They should **aim for 100% in every homework task**. Parents can check and support hwk progress,
 - **Get your child to log on to Mathswatch in front of you.** Set tasks and current progress will be displayed. Encourage your child to start the tasks asap and to keep trying when they struggle.
 - **Encourage your child to request feedback** from their teacher on Mathswatch when they need help, and also **encourage your child to help themselves by watching the linked video clips.**
- **Check that your child is making their own revision notes.** They should use Mathswatch videos, revision guides, other videos, text books, exercise books, other websites, or any combination of these. Students should also use existing revision notes and condense them further. If they write down key knowledge and examples on areas that they are not secure on yet. Then keep reading over and testing themselves, they will learn and remember more. Parents can help by helping your child be organised with equipment and organising time. Parents can also test their child from their own revision notes.
- **Lots of exam practice.**
 - Students can get **paper copies of exam papers** from their teachers. **Teachers can mark** for you.
 - Students can try **exam papers on interactively on Mathswatch**, and they get **marked instantly**. They can request feedback from teachers when the don't understand something.
 - Students can view **papers online on many websites**. Try the questions. Then view mark schemes, worked solutions, &/or video solutions online to help them **self-assess** and learn from mistakes. Parents can help with facilitating this.
 - Students can try **past exam questions by topic area**. Students and teachers will have identified areas that the student needs to work on. They can find questions on Mathswatch, other websites, or ask teacher to provide questions to practice. Teachers will happily mark and assist.

During February half term – Students should be making revision notes + practicing exam style questions...

- **Revision lists are on the website with links to Mathswatch videos clips. Ask your child to make revision notes**
- **There are also targeted set tasks on Mathswatch for students to do. Parents can see progress when a child logs in.**

Best websites for GCSE Maths revision

www.vle.mathswatch.co.uk

All students have an individual login. Homework is set on here. There are hundreds of little video clips catering for every topic that could be tested on at GCSE Maths. With each clip, there are interactive questions that can be tried to assess knowledge. They are marked instantly. Students can request feedback from teachers when required, as well as watch linked video clips. A mimic of every past paper is available to do interactively on Mathswatch as well. All in all, this is an amazing website. We pay for it, so students have free access.

www.mathsgenie.co.uk

- GCSE revision by topic area: videos, exam style questions, exam question solutions.
- GCSE exam papers: Papers in PDF format, mark schemes and worked solutions. Video solutions for Higher.

www.corbettmaths.co.uk

- “5 a day” is a great collection of questions to help you to revise 5 key topics per day. There are 5 levels that you can work at based on your ability and aspirations.
- For every GCSE topic, there are also videos, worksheets, & solutions.
- There are also “practice GCSE papers” with model solutions.

www.mrbartonmaths.com

- GCSE Maths takeaway: Videos, exam questions, and solutions arranged by topic
- GCSE past papers with grade boundaries and worked solutions
- Free ebook of GCSE notes and examples – great for revision, very much like a revision guide.

Opportunities to get help from the maths department

- 4 hours of lessons + 45 min period 6 after school on Tuesday
- On Tuesday – Thursday 3:45 – 4:45, & Friday 3:00 – 4:00 Y11 Maths help in D2 (computer room)
- On request and subject to available time, teachers will help at before school and at lunchtimes too.
- Feedback & support through Mathswatch. Teachers will respond to your help requests quickly.
- Feedback & support through Email and MS Teams. Teachers also share material on MS Teams
- Parents can email your child’s maths teacher any time.

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