

Preparing for A-level Maths

You need to be aware of the following things!

Ways of working

- ❖ Generally your teacher will introduce you to a topic and give you an example or two, demonstrating the method and workings – you are probably advised to make a copy of this!
- ❖ You may then get a chance to practise in lessons, but will also need to complete further practice from the exercises in your own time. (Reckon on at least an hour outside lessons for each hour in class.)
- ❖ The answers are in the back of the textbook. You are expected to regularly check your own work and **physically mark** it to show that you have done so. This way, if necessary, you can quickly identify when you are going wrong and correct your work or get help.
- ❖ NB: Thorough and clear workings really are essential and you will not get full marks in the exams without them – in some cases you won't get any marks if you don't show certain stages!
- ❖ You must bring your textbook to every lesson, and you will also require a calculator – you will probably need to upgrade from your GCSE calculator but hold fire on buying a new one, we will give you further information on recommended calculators in September.

First teaching September 2017

- ❖ You will be starting a new A-level course, so whatever you may have heard from Y12 or past students from other years – it's all change this year!
- ❖ All parts of the course are compulsory and may be examined – there is no choice over different modules.
- ❖ All exams are at the end of Year 13 – 3 papers of 2 hours each.
- ❖ We expect to be following the AQA specification.

In preparation for September:

Set up a method for organising your notes.

- ❖ Your work should be separated into chapters.
- ❖ This is best done by filing A4 sheets (lined paper) into a lever arch folder with dividers.
- ❖ If you want to work in notebooks, A4 will be best (solutions and workings will be longer than you are used to at GCSE). You could use post-its or similar to separate chapters and make them easier to find.
- ❖ NB Exercise books are not provided in 6th Form – you are expected to bring your own paper and equipment to each lesson.

Other suggestions:

- ❖ Keep notes pages and practice work separate.
- ❖ Use a highlighter, colours or boxes to make important formulae and information stand out.
- ❖ Keep a smaller folder for carrying current work.
- ❖ Make your own formulae/methods notebook for quick reference during revision.

Summer Work checklist	✓
❖ Work through the booklet , making sure that you are confident with the methods covered. These are the topics from GCSE that are essential knowledge when it comes to A-level.	
❖ Complete the practice questions and mark your own work . You will need to bring this work to hand in at the start of term.	
❖ If there are any areas where you have problems, make a note of these so that you can ask for help when we get back in September.	
❖ Set up your filing system as described above – the sooner it is up and running, the more organised you will be from the start.	
❖ Bring your completed and marked practice questions, organised by section, together with the work book to hand in at the first maths lesson (so bring in on Day 1 just in case!)	

Good luck and welcome to A-level maths!