

# GCSE Maths FAQs

1) *Which exam board do we use for GCSE Mathematics?*

AQA, specification code 8300

The content of the mathematics GCSE is prescribed by the government, so the content covered is standardised across all exam boards.

2) *What calculator should students have?*

Students are expected to have a **scientific calculator** for their GCSE Maths exam. The most common calculators are the Casio fx-83GTCW, fx-85GTCW or fx-991CW however other brands make comparable calculators that can be used.

3) *What is the structure of the exams?*

Students will sit three 90-minute exam papers. The first paper will be non-calculator and the second and third papers will be calculator papers. Each paper is worth 80 marks and are equally weighted.

4) *What is the difference between Higher tier and Foundation tier?*

In GCSE Mathematics we have two tiers of entry: Higher and Foundation. Students taking Foundation tier can achieve grades 5 – 1. Students taking Higher tier will cover all the content in Foundation plus additional content that is more challenging and the grades available when sitting Higher tier papers are 9 – 4.

5) *How are tiers of entry decided?*

Tiers of entry are decided by the Maths department who have the professional expertise to determine which tier of entry will give each student the best opportunity to get the best grade they can. It is worth noting that the grades have the same value whichever tier the students sit i.e., a grade 5 from a Foundation paper is equal to a grade 5 from a Higher paper.

6) *How can I help my child revise?*

First and foremost, ensure they are completing their homework that is set on Sparx Maths each week. Past papers are also a good way for students to revise and these can be freely accessed from the exam board's website. Students can complete practice papers from any exam board as the content is standardised across all exam boards.

7) *When should my child start revising?*

Now. Practising maths little and often will be incredibly beneficial for your child. At this stage of the year if they can 30 minutes three times a week outside of school that will be putting them in a good position (completing their maths homework should count as part of this time).

8) *Do you recommend any revision guides?*

There are many different revision guides on the market and students should look through the different ones and find the guide that suits them the best. However, we have a few that we know are reliable:

Foundation tier: Collins GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision - AQA GCSE 9-1 Maths Foundation All-in-One Complete Revision and Practice ISBN: 978-0008112516

Higher tier: Collins GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision – AQA GCSE 9-1 Maths Higher All-in-One Complete Revision and Practice ISBN: 978-0008112509

Aiming for a grade 4/5 on either tier: Ready? Set? Go!: GCSE Maths Crossover Revision Workbook ISBN: 978-1838065003