# Section Check Ins for AS and A Level

Assessment for learning is a vital component of effective teaching and can be used to provide clear feedback to students as well as informing lesson planning. It is an integral part of the pedagogy of each and every lesson rather than a form of data tracking or analysis. On some occasions however, it is appropriate and desirable to administer more formal assessment for learning techniques and OCR has produced this series of *Section Check Ins* to assist teachers in this.

A *Section* *Check In* has been produced for each section of the A Level Maths and A Level Further Maths specification content. Both the Maths and Further Maths specifications present the required content across two stages in line with the most common two year delivery model.

* Stage 1 subject content is for the first year of the A Level which is the equivalent content for students sitting AS Level
* Stage 2 subject content is for the second year of the A Level.

The majority of *Section* *Check Ins* will contain both Stage 1 and Stage 2 content but there are some *Section* *Check Ins* that contain only Stage 2 content.

Each *Section Check In* is comprised of 10 questions:

* Questions 1-4 are routine procedural questions
	+ - These primarily assess ‘Use and apply standard techniques (AO1)’
* Questions 5-10 focus on the overarching themes:
	+ *Mathematical argument, language and proof*
	+ *Mathematical problem solving*
	+ *Mathematical modelling*
		- These primarily assess ‘Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically (AO2)’ and ‘Solve problems within maths and in other contexts (AO3)’

At least half of the questions will be appropriate for Stage 1 learners apart from those sections of the specification that contain only Stage 2 content.

**The questions on Stage 2 content statements can be easily identified by an asterisk (\*)**.

Please note that the *Section Check In* questions should not be considered exemplars of AS/A level assessment style questions.

Each Section Check In contains:

* **worked solutions** so that learners can verify their own work.
* an **extension** at the end which will allow more able students to stretch themselves once they have completed the 10 questions. The extension could be: a more challenging question; a question to enrich their understanding of the topic; an activity involving application of maths in a context; or an activity that links to a topic not covered in the 10 questions. It could also serve as a possible discussion topic.

## How to use Section Check Ins

It is anticipated that teachers will use these *Section* *Check Ins* in a variety of ways and they have been designed to allow teachers to fit them into schemes of work as appropriate. It is not necessary to use every *Section Check In*, or to deliver them in a particular order.

Possible ideas for administering *Section Check Ins* include:

* during lesson, to encourage students to peer or self-assess their work
* as a homework task after completing the delivery of the content, to assess how learners apply their learned techniques and to identify key areas to focus further lessons
* as a post-delivery ‘test’, to track what students have assimilated
* as a series of activities, to help students plan revision for internal or external exams

The length of time given for each *Section Check In* should be at the discretion of the teacher, based on professional judgement of the ability of each group of learners.

Marks have not been assigned to questions despite differences in the amount of work required to complete each one. Instead, user-friendly worked solutions are provided which offer instant feedback and allows learners to inform their own understanding and study independently.

The preceding suggestions should not be considered an exhaustive list and teachers are encouraged to use the materials in a flexible way to best support the engagement and learning of their students.

*Section Check Ins* are available to download from the OCR website. Further *Section Check Ins* to cover the whole specification will be uploaded to the OCR website when complete.

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