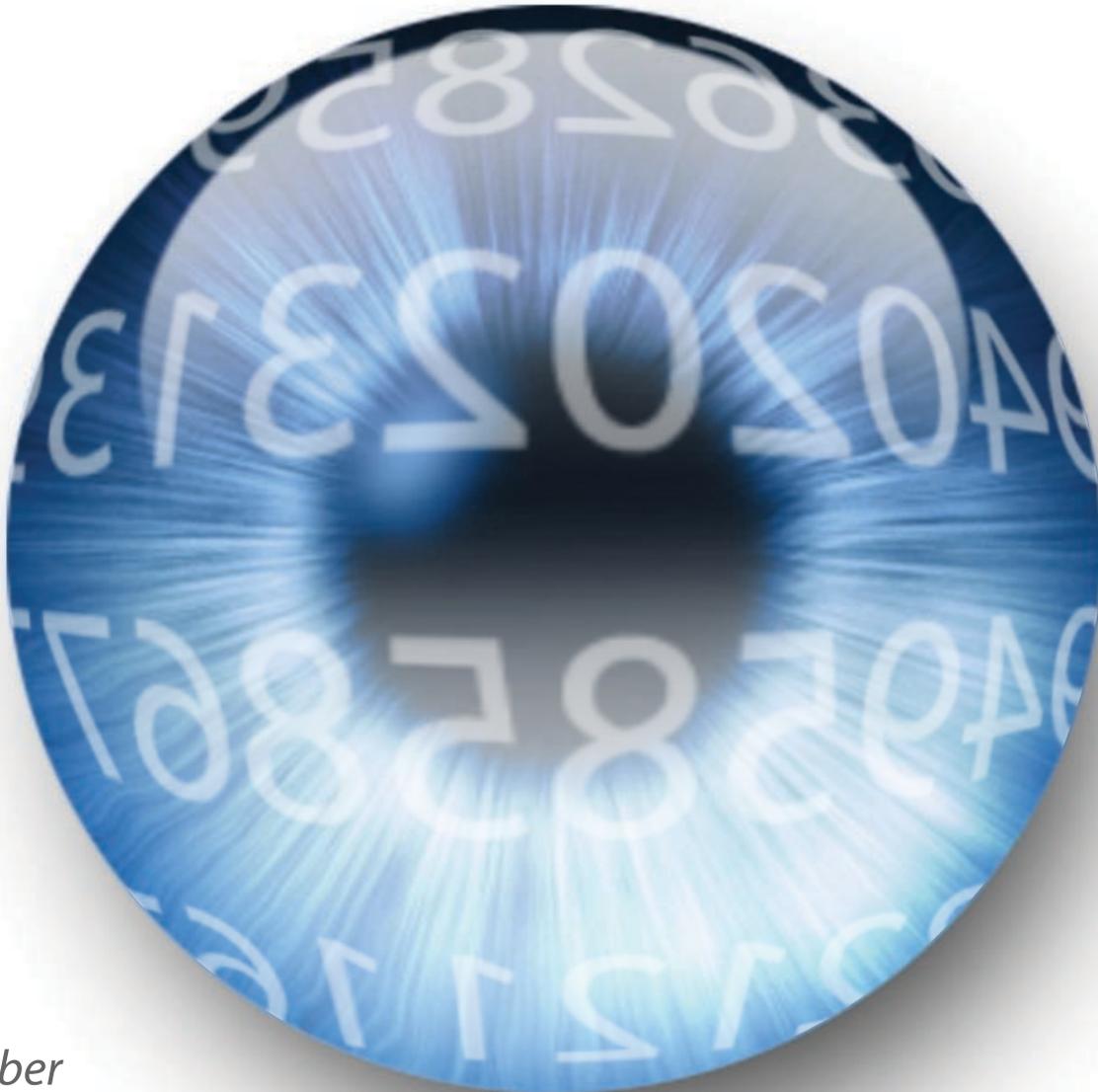




Your guide to

**OCR GCSE**

**Mathematics A**



*"Number  
rules the Universe."*

**Pythagoras**

*Mathematics for the modern world*

## GCSE Mathematics – what’s in it for me?

This brand new Maths GCSE gives you great opportunities, not only to study traditional mathematical topics like number, algebra, geometry and statistics, but also how to use these in your everyday life.

The qualification has also been designed to develop the broader mathematical skills of problem solving, reasoning and generalising.

You’ll study and develop your knowledge of:

- Solving complex calculations by breaking down a problem into simpler steps
- Applying mathematical knowledge and understanding to solve everyday problems
- Thinking and communicating mathematically – precisely, logically and creatively
- Using ratio and proportion, fractions, decimals and percentages
- Using different formulae and expressions, setting up and solving equations and working with graphs
- Interpreting scales and maps, working with shapes, finding areas and volumes, using trigonometry to solve problems and vectors
- Analysing data and graphs, correlation, calculating and interpreting different statistical measures and the study of chance
- Using spreadsheets and databases to present your work.

## How could it help with my future?

Your Maths GCSE is highly valuable in the workplace, opening up opportunities for many different career paths such as architecture, banking and finance, business consultancy, engineering, game design, health and medicine, IT and computer science, psychology, science, teaching and many more.

This Maths course also encourages the development of characteristics valued by employers, such as the ability to:

- Speculate and make decisions
- Work effectively with others
- Explain and prove your ideas
- Communicate clearly to all levels of business personnel
- Interpret, reflect on and solve problems and issues.

## How will my work be assessed?

This GCSE is assessed by three exam papers. Each of the papers can be taken at either Higher tier or Foundation tier. You can take all Higher tier papers, all Foundation tier papers or a mix of the two tiers.

### You’ll take:

- Paper 1** 1 hour long and worth 25% of the total marks. You may use a calculator in this paper.
- Paper 2** 1 hour long and worth 25% of the total marks. You may **not** use a calculator in this paper.
- Paper 3** 1½ hours long at Foundation tier and 2 hours long at Higher tier and worth 50% of the total marks. You may use a calculator in this paper.

## What grades could I get?

You could achieve any grade from A\* to G, depending on how well you do and on the combination of Higher/Foundation papers that you take.

An overall grade can only be awarded once all three exam papers have been taken.

If your school chooses the modular approach, then you’ll be given a uniform mark score (UMS) that contributes to the overall grade. This will also give you an indication of the final grade you could achieve.

*“Sometimes it is useful to know how large your zero is.”*

**Unknown Author**