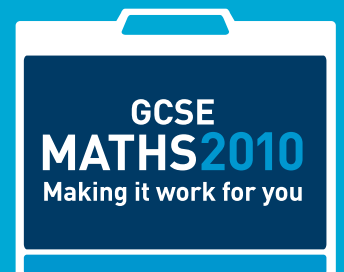


# GCSE Maths is changing

[www.ocr.org.uk/maths/gcse2010](http://www.ocr.org.uk/maths/gcse2010)



**New GCSE Maths specifications are being introduced by all awarding bodies for first teaching in 2010 to take account of the changes to the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study. Maths was put on a later timescale to allow time for the functional skills pilot to take place.**

**We are redeveloping our Maths GCSEs in close consultation with teachers and other key stakeholders within the Maths teaching community. By listening to you, we are shaping our specifications to meet your needs and those of your learners.**

**There are four main changes to the Maths GCSEs as follows:**

- Single qualification only (there will be no second GCSE)
- 'Twin' GCSE Maths pilot that will begin in September 2010
- New Key Stage 4 Programme of Study (published in April 2008)
- New subject criteria with new Assessment Objectives:
  - AO1** Recall and use their knowledge of the prescribed content (45–55% weighting)
  - AO2** Select and apply mathematical methods in a range of contexts (25–35% weighting)
  - AO3** Interpret and analyse problems and generate strategies to solve them (15–25% weighting).

Here are some frequently asked questions:

### What is the 'twin' GCSE Maths pilot?

The 'twin' GCSE Maths pilot will form part of the new Key Stage 4 Programme of Study and will have separate subject criteria and Assessment Objectives. It is expected that your learners will be required to sit qualifications in both Applications of Mathematics and Methods in Mathematics. It is intended that the 'twin' pilot will incorporate additional content over and above that of the single GCSE. Participation in the pilot is limited and centres will be invited to register their interest once further details are available.

### How did QCA arrive at the new subject criteria?

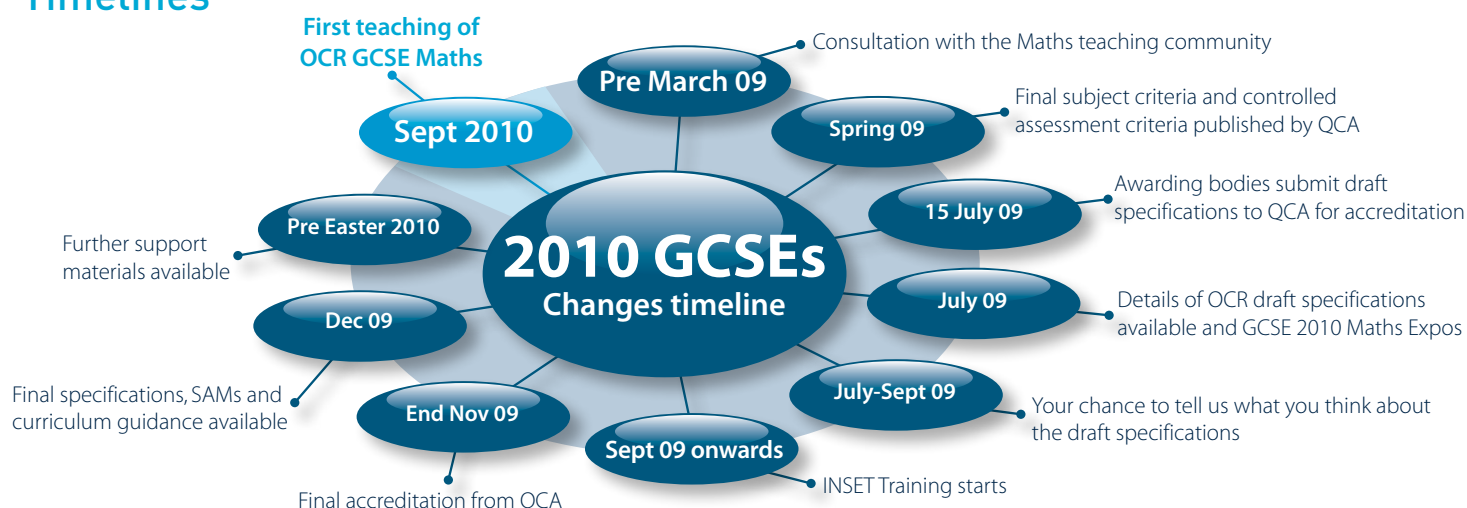
New draft subject criteria were published for comment by QCA in Summer 2008. Further feedback was incorporated with final subject criteria being published in April 2009.

During this process, we will continue to work with teachers to produce our draft GCSE Maths specifications in July 2009, with final accredited specifications appearing in December 2009. These will be ready for first teaching from September 2010.

### What does all this mean for me?

From September 2010, all learners beginning a new course of GCSE Maths study will need to be working towards the new specifications. We recognise the challenges for implementation and teaching that the introduction of the new Assessment Objectives and functional skills will bring. This is why we are fully committed to developing a robust package of support to help you manage the changes with the minimum of disruption.

## Timelines



## What is OCR doing?

We have been consulting widely on what the changes mean for you, in order to ensure that our new GCSE Maths qualifications meet your needs and those of your learners.

We are already working closely with our publisher partners, Oxford University Press and Hodder Education, and key stakeholders to make sure that our new GCSE Maths qualifications are well supported and you have everything you need to teach them with confidence.

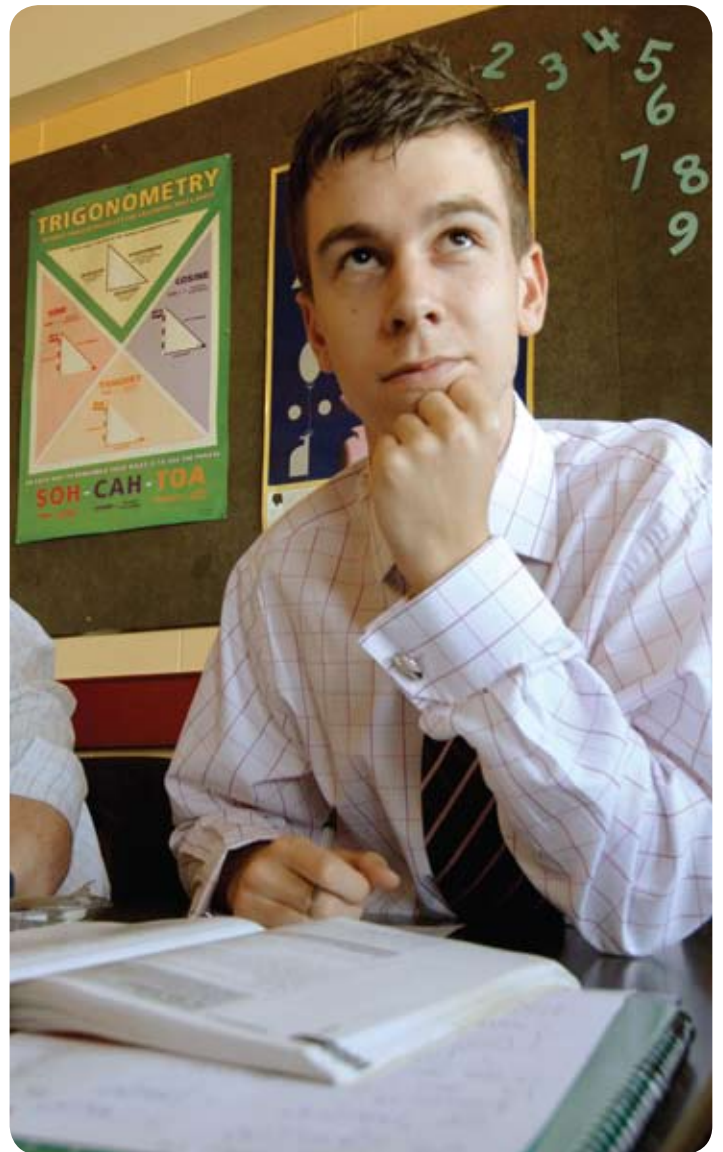
Our publisher partners, Oxford University Press and Hodder Education, will produce teacher-friendly resources for our new specifications, which will support you with the changes and help you get the best from your learners.



## What can I expect from OCR?

We aim to make the changes as easy for you to manage as possible. We will do this by offering:

- Latest news and information on the developments and support – register for updates at [www.ocr.org.uk/updates](http://www.ocr.org.uk/updates)
- Guidance on which qualification will be most suitable for you and your learners and the different ways of making the new qualifications work for your learners
- A package of comprehensive support, which will include support such as INSET training, Specimen Assessment Materials, Teacher Handbooks, Curriculum Guide, guidance on the changes and delivery, as well as materials from our publisher partners, Oxford University Press and Hodder Education.



## 2010 GCSE Maths Expos

At our **FREE 2010 GCSE Maths Expos** this Summer, you will have an excellent opportunity to learn about the new GCSE Maths specifications and accompanying support first-hand and provide us with valuable feedback and influence the final stages of development.

### At the Expo you will:

- Be able to get information on the changes to GCSE Maths and Functional Skills Maths
- Meet subject specialists
- Speak with publishers and other support partners
- Receive information on the FREE training events for GCSE Maths in your region
- Listen to presentations for Maths, which will outline the changes and support we will be providing you with.

## Expo dates for your diary!

**North East – 1 July 2009**

**North West – 3 July 2009**

**London – 6 July 2009**

**Midlands – 10 July 2009**

**South West – 14 July 2009**

To book your free place on one of our 2010 GCSE Maths Expo events, visit [www.ocr.org.uk/eventbooker](http://www.ocr.org.uk/eventbooker) and use course ref OEXP2.

# Functional Skills Maths

## What are functional skills?

Functional skills are practical skills in Maths that help learners gain the most out of work, education and everyday life. We are running a three-year pilot for functional skills in Maths at all levels – Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2. The Maths pilot outcomes will help to inform the development of functional skills in Maths to complement the new GCSE Maths.

Using an engaging and 'real life' context approach, Functional Skills Maths encourages learners to be confident in using mathematical skills effectively in everyday life.

All learners can benefit from Functional Skills Maths, as it will enable learners to operate confidently in their everyday life, workplace and educational settings by developing and recognising their ability to apply and transfer mathematical skills in ways that are appropriate to their situation.

## What do learners need to demonstrate?

In order to use Maths effectively in everyday life, learners must demonstrate that they have the ability to understand and make sense of mathematical information, use and process that information, interpret and analyse the results and to present this to others. These process skills form the basis of the assessment within 'real-life' contexts.

Our pilot Functional Skills Maths assessments at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 are structured accordingly:



### Entry Level qualification structure

- Centre assessed and externally moderated by OCR
- Learners are required to complete an activity per entry level – you have a choice of activity for each level, to best suit the learner.
- At Entry Level 3, learners also complete a written task
- The Tutor Assessment Handbook contains the activity scenario and the assessment record, which tutors use to record the learner's achievements and to provide feedback
- On demand – learners can be assessed at any time convenient to you
- Available at Entry Level 1, 2 and 3.

### Levels 1 and 2 qualification structure

- OCR set and marked tasks comprising three written tasks
- Duration Level 1: 1hr 15 mins
- Duration Level 2: 1hr 15 mins
- Undertaken in controlled, supervised conditions
- Learners will be able to use a calculator
- Each assessment window is a week long, so you can timetable the assessments at a time to suit you within this week.

For more information about functional skills, including OCR's **Functional Skills Watch** newsletter, visit our website: [www.ocr.org.uk/functionalskills](http://www.ocr.org.uk/functionalskills)

## How do functional skills relate to the new Maths GCSEs?

- Functionality in Maths is included in the new Programmes of Study for Key Stages 3 and 4 Maths and will be assessed in the new GCSEs in Maths.
- Functional Skills Maths will be a standalone qualification which is a required part of Diplomas and Apprenticeships, and is also designed to be complementary to GCSE Maths.
- It is not a requirement for learners to pass their Functional Skills Maths in order to gain a high grade in GCSE Maths, but preparing for and achieving the Functional Skills Maths will mean that learners will be well prepared for the functional aspects of GCSE Maths.

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

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