



Newman Catholic School

Mathematics GCSE September 2015

(First examinations summer 2017)

Understanding the changes

- At present, the UK is ranked 8th in the international PISA rankings (tests based on Reading, Maths and Science) which is the international average.
- The government is committed to increasing this ranking as the top spot's Maths grades alone are equivalent to that of 3 school years above the UK/average scores.
- The new GCSEs in English and Maths will now be recognised internationally.
- This means much more demanding assessment.
- There is a government goal to raise standards in English and Maths which have both begun to decline nationally (less accurate figures with multiple entries/resits etc).

New Mathematics GCSE specification aims

- To encourage fluency and understanding, not just memorised facts
- Have techniques to solve problems
- Enable pupils to reason Mathematically
- Enable pupils to understand Maths in a variety of forms and contexts

Key points about new Mathematics GCSE

- One attempt only at GCSE Mathematics at the end of year 11 (no resits/early entry/modular units).
- No coursework (100% examination based).
- Higher and Foundation tiers still exist (unlike English).
- Bigger Higher and Foundation cross-over.
- Grades now in numbers (like English) 9-1 instead of A*-G.
- 9 = top half of A* grades, 8 = A*, 7 = A, 4 = C (though 2018 onwards a C equivalent is expected to raise to a 5).
- 3 examinations at the end of year 11, all of equal weighting (33.3%) and include aspects of all areas studied (number, proportion, algebra, shape, probability and statistics).
- Paper 1 is non-calculator, the other 2 are calculator.
- All examinations are 1h 30.

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017

| NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | U |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| A* | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | U | |
| CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE | | | | | | | | | |

What this means for Maths

- New content on both Higher (9-4) and Foundation (5-1) tiers.
- Higher now includes (previously) A-level material. Grades below a 4 on Higher are ungraded.
- Foundation now includes (previously) Higher material (previously grade B).
- Pupils sitting Foundation can now access a grade higher than a C (5, not quite equivalent to a B) much like the old intermediate tier.
- Pupils are no longer given formulae in the examinations booklet, they must learn them prior to the exams.
- Much more rigorous and demanding course designed to challenge and stretch pupils.