Key Stage 4 Overview

Exam Board - Edexcel

Qualification type - GCSE 9-1

Assessment:

We begin teaching the Key Stage 4 curriculum in Year 9, allowing three years to complete the course. Students follow the curriculum appropriate for their ability leading to Mathematics GCSE taken at Foundation (New GCSE Grades 1 to 5) or Higher (Grades 4 to 9) in the summer of Year 11, taught in 4 lessons per week in groups based on ability.

All students will be taught skills in Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion, Rates of change, Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Students are taught to solve familiar and unfamiliar problems in a range of numerical, algebraic and graphical contexts and in open-ended and closed form. They will use standard notations for decimals, fractions, percentages, ratios and indices. Students will learn how to choose appropriate ICT tools and use these to solve numerical and graphical problems, to represent and manipulate geometrical configurations and to present and analyse data.

A key element of GCSE Mathematics exams is the functionality of Mathematics or the ability to relate Mathematics to real life situations. Students will need to be able to translate problems in mathematical and non- mathematical context, make use of connections between different parts of Mathematics, interpret results, and evaluate methods to identify the most efficient method.

The exam is linear and has three papers (two calculator papers and one non- calculator paper) taken at the end of the three-year course. Each paper will be 1 hr 30 minutes long and consists of 80 marks each. About a third of the marks for each paper are based on the functionality of mathematics.

The new specification has an increased emphasis on mathematical reasoning and explanation of methods, as well as an increased amount of more difficult content on both Foundation and Higher papers.

The highest grade on the Foundation paper is now Grade 5, which is equivalent to a high C grade or lower B grade in the previous GCSE