

For the attention of the Head of Mathematics and all teachers of mathematics.

Did you know that ...

- **GCE Mathematics is changing soon**
- **QCA wants your opinion?**

When are the changes happening?

New qualifications called AS/A level Use of Mathematics and AS/A level Use of Statistics will be introduced for first teaching in **September 2011**. New AS/A levels in Mathematics and Further Mathematics will be introduced for first teaching in **September 2012**.

What will the new qualifications look like?

Final decisions have not been made yet. QCA has put its proposals out to public consultation until **10 July 2009**. You can find the proposals on the QCA website at http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_21230.aspx; read the page and then look under 'Related Documents' in the right-hand menu.

How will A level Maths and Further Maths change?

In brief, under the QCA proposal, A level Maths will consist of 4 units. The pure content will stay roughly as now. The applied content will be the same for all A levels, and will cover some aspects of mechanics, statistics and decision maths. Further Maths will consist of 6 units as now, with some choice. There will be no overlap of units or content between Maths and Further Maths. There are more details on the QCA website.

Are these decisions final? Can I influence them?

QCA is conducting a public consultation until **10 July 2009**. There are five questionnaires on different aspects of the proposals. You have to respond online, using the website.

Whether or not you use OCR maths examinations we want to encourage you to make your voice heard by filling in at least some of the questionnaires. These are important decisions about the future of post-16 maths, with possible implications for how many students take the subject. You can respond as an individual or representing a group eg department or school.

Is there a short cut through all these questionnaires?

We suggest that you print out some of the proposals and questionnaires before you start; pdf versions can be found under 'Related Documents' in the right-hand menu. Especially relevant is the 'Level 3 mathematics overarching questionnaire'; this gives some alternative models for A level Maths. You might then choose another questionnaire of particular interest to you; not all questions need to be answered.

Is there only one model for A level Maths?

Actually there are six models but you will only see one of them (QCA's proposal) if you click on 'Agree' in response to question 2a) of the 'Level 3 mathematics overarching questionnaire'. Either print out this questionnaire first to see all the models or click 'Disagree' to question 2a); you can go back and change your mind later.

Who can I talk to about these issues?

You are welcome to contact us about any of these issues, or just let us know your views. Write to us at maths@ocr.org.uk. Once the decisions are made we will keep you informed about our proposals for different GCE mathematics qualifications.