

Frequently Asked Questions – Coursework for GCE Mathematics (MEI)

Which units have coursework? Is it mandatory?

Core 3 (4753), Differential Equations (4758) and Numerical Methods (4776) each has a mandatory piece of coursework which is worth 20% of the mark for the unit. Differential Equations (A2) and Numerical Methods (AS) are Further Maths units.

Where can I find out about the coursework tasks? Does OCR set the tasks?

The starting point is the specification, which describes the content assessed by coursework, the tasks and how the work is assessed.

Can I get any more information?

There is a leaflet on this [page](#), 'Coursework Support', that outlines the resources and extra help available from OCR and MEI. It includes resources on the MEI website, a bank of exemplar material and how to contact someone to ask for more help.

Why do you still have coursework?

This specification has been running since 2004, when there was coursework in GCSE Maths. The philosophy of the MEI A level is that the assessment should be appropriate to the mathematical content. Solving equations using numerical methods is best done with a computer, so it is best assessed with access to a computer. Serious modelling with differential equations requires accessing all part of the modelling cycle: hard to assess in a timed written examination.

Who marks the coursework?

The centre is responsible for marking the coursework, and for moderating the marking internally to make sure that it is consistent. OCR asks for a sample of the marked coursework for an external moderator to check. This can result in a scaling of the centre's marks.

Can we ask someone else to mark the coursework for us?

The centre is responsible for marking the coursework, but it does not have to be a teacher at the centre who does the marking. As long as the responsible person at the centre signs the forms to authenticate the candidates' work and to say that the work has been internally moderated that is fine. This is worth bearing in mind if a centre has just one candidate doing a particular piece of coursework – say a private candidate or someone transferring from another school.

Some centres get together to form a consortium. Details of how this works are

When are the deadlines?

Marks have to be submitted by 10 December for the January series and 15 May for the June series.

Do centres get feedback on their marking?

On results day centres get a record of the scaling applied to their marks, if any, and a written report from a moderator. This report gives details of where, if anywhere, the centre's marking deviated from national standards.

If a candidate resits a unit, do they have to do the coursework again?

The candidate can choose to do the coursework again, or can resubmit the mark from last time. When the entry is made 4753A means unit 4753 with coursework

submitted, 4753B means unit 4753 with coursework mark carried forward. Examinations Officers will refer to the Admin Guide to see more details.

Can a candidate improve on coursework which was submitted last series?

Coursework that candidates do is returned to the centre. Centres may return it to candidates. If a candidate wishes to submit a solution to the same task in a later series then they must submit a fresh piece of work, which must be marked and authenticated as a whole; they may base their fresh attempt on their own previous work. The work must be the candidate's own, done without undue help. Telling the candidate the mark previously achieved is fine. Telling the candidate that by adding a particular calculation (for example) their mark would increase by 2 marks is undue help. The feedback offered and help given must be no more than during the original doing of the task.

What support can I get with coursework?

There is a leaflet on this [page](#), 'Coursework Support', that lists a variety of sources of help from OCR and MEI. Some of these are free but a few – for example a visit to your school or college from an expert – cost money. There are two email addresses of people you can contact at any time for advice.