

# GCSE Mathematics Linked Pair pilot

## GCSE Methods in Mathematics and GCSE Applications of Mathematics

**This pilot started in September 2010 and will continue until summer 2013. If successful, it will become available nationally.**

- It will appeal to students with a passion for mathematics and those who simply want to learn more about this core subject.
- Its success relies on the involvement and input of practising teachers, while enabling schools and colleges to influence national policy.
- Students need to enter both qualifications to cover the statutory Key Stage 4 Programme of Study. Together, the two GCSEs cover the entire content of the single **GCSE Maths** and much more, with the opportunity to study in greater depth, providing a sound basis for further study.
- Grade A\* to C in either of these GCSEs meets the mathematics requirement for 5 A\* to C grades, including English and maths, in attainment tables.

### GCSE Methods in Mathematics

- Concentrates on mathematics as a discipline in its own right and as a powerful vehicle for developing the skills of thinking, reasoning and problem solving.
- Encourages learners to develop sound basic technique in number, algebra and geometry.
- Builds confidence in applying these techniques to solve problems in mathematical contexts.
- Emphasises the coherence, creativity, elegance and power of mathematics, leading learners to appreciate the importance of clear communication, justification and simple proof.

### GCSE Applications of Mathematics

- Concentrates on the skills and content required in our everyday lives and in gaining a mathematical understanding of the world around us.
- Questions on all topic areas emphasise the relevance and purpose of the subject with many set in financial, scientific and other relevant, realistic contexts.



The data and centre feedback from this pilot will feed into a comprehensive, independent evaluation of the future of GCSE Mathematics.

If successful, the pilot will extend seamlessly into nationally available specifications for first teaching from September 2015, either replacing or running alongside the single GCSEs in mathematics.

**Specifications, specimen question papers and mark schemes are available at [www.aqa.org.uk/mathszone](http://www.aqa.org.uk/mathszone)**



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## Specifications at a glance

### GCSE Methods in Mathematics (pilot)

#### Unit M1: Methods in Mathematics (Algebra and Probability)

- **Content:**
  - Number
  - Algebra
  - Probability
- Available in both Foundation and Higher tiers
- Externally assessed by written paper:
  - 1 hour 30 minutes
  - 80 marks – 50% of total marks
  - Section A – calculator allowed
  - Section B – non-calculator

**plus**

#### Unit M2: Methods in Mathematics (Geometry and Algebra)

- **Content:**
  - Number
  - Algebra
  - Geometry
- Available in both Foundation and Higher tiers
- Externally assessed by written paper:
  - 1 hour 30 minutes
  - 80 marks – 50% of total marks
  - Calculator allowed

This specification must be taken in conjunction with its 'twin': **GCSE Applications of Mathematics pilot**.



### GCSE Applications of Mathematics (pilot)

#### Unit A1: Applications of Mathematics (Finance and Statistics)

- **Content:**
  - Number
  - Financial and business applications
  - Statistics and probability
- Available in both Foundation and Higher tiers
- Externally assessed by written paper:
  - 1 hour 30 minutes
  - 80 marks – 50% of total marks
  - Calculator allowed

**plus**

#### Unit A2: Applications of Mathematics (Geometry and Measures)

- **Content:**
  - Number
  - Measures
  - Algebra
  - Geometry
- Available in both Foundation and Higher tiers
- Externally assessed by written paper:
  - 1 hour 30 minutes
  - 80 marks – 50% of total marks
  - Calculator allowed

This specification must be taken in conjunction with its 'twin': **GCSE Methods in Mathematics pilot**.

Specifications, specimen question papers and mark schemes are available at [www.aqa.org.uk/mathszone](http://www.aqa.org.uk/mathszone)

To receive information about the progress of this pilot, register for e-mail updates at [www.aqa.org.uk/register](http://www.aqa.org.uk/register)

For queries about this or any other maths qualification, please call **0161 957 3852** or e-mail [mathematicsgcse@aqa.org.uk](mailto:mathematicsgcse@aqa.org.uk)