



Parents' Guide to Preparing for Examinations in Mathematics



The St Anthony's Maths Department would like to share some advice and guidance on how to help our students prepare for their examinations in Mathematics, it is essential that students prepare thoroughly for examinations and their mocks will take place in January 2026. Effective revision is the key to success in Mathematics. Students need to use the weeks before the mock exams well. They need to be organised and work hard. The best way to revise in Mathematics is to complete practice exam papers and topic questions. Below there is a guide to revision methods and resources that can be used in order to be as prepared as possible.

Maths Revision Sessions – There are many revision sessions taking place within the Maths department to support students with their revision in Mathematics. Students are welcome to attend any sessions for their tier of entry they are able to attend with subject staff. Students can ask their Maths teacher for information on when these sessions are taking place.

Use of Question Level Analysis Sheets - All students have received a copy of their individual Question Level Analysis (QLA) from their Year 10 end of year exams. These are colour coded with all topic areas covered in the mock exams detailed. Each topic will be either green, yellow or red depending on their marks for each question. There is a Sparx Maths code attached to each topic for the students to use to enable them to improve. Students should use this as a revision list to support them as it is tailored to their strengths and areas for improvement. Further QLA sheets will be received after end of cycle tests and mock exams.

Online Resources – School has purchased Sparx Maths which students already use for weekly homework. Sparx also has a range of revision materials ranging from videos and online exercises, which can be used in conjunction with the QLAs for tailored revision. Please ask your child to speak to their class teacher if they are having problems accessing any of these resources.

Free Online Resources – There are many free websites which provide some outstanding resources and revision materials for GCSE Maths including; Maths Genie, Corbett Maths, Dr Frost Maths and Mr Barton Maths. Many have dedicated GCSE revision and preparation sections containing videos, checklists, exam practice papers and worked solutions.

Equipment

It is essential that students have all of the necessary equipment for use in their Mathematics mock exam papers. Students will need the following equipment:

- Black pens
- Pencil, rubber and sharpener
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Pair of Compasses
- Scientific Calculator (for papers 2 and 3)



*Students should have the calculator they will be using in the examinations in advance. It will be important that they are familiar with the functions they need to use as each make and model can differ in format. Most students use a Casio calculator, the current models available for purchase at GCSE level are **Casio FX-83GTCW and Casio FX-85GTCW**, and these are available in most supermarkets, although older models will still perform all necessary functions.*

Calculator Memory

Prior to each examination, all students should ensure that the memory functions of their calculators are cleared in order to comply with JCQ regulations. Schools can be inspected at any time during examinations for a 'spot check' so it is essential students carry out this process. Staff will remind students to do this and will go through how to do this in class.

Dates of Final Mathematics GCSE Examinations:

Paper 1 (non-calculator) – Thursday 14th May 2026 AM 1hour 30min

Paper 2 (calculator) - Wednesday 3rd June 2026 AM 1hour 30min

Paper 3 (calculator) – Wednesday 10th June 2026 AM 1hour 30min

Students have been following the programme of Study for the Edexcel specification for Mathematics (1MA1) at either the higher or the foundation tier.

We wish all of our students the best of luck during Year 11 and in preparation for their mock and then final set of examinations. If you have any questions about anything detailed or any other Mathematics query, please get in touch with Mrs Armstrong. We thank you in advance for your support.

St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy Mathematics Department

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