

General:

The original approach to the revision of A level and AS Mathematics was that although some revisions were needed in the light of the Summer 2001 AS results and Summer 2002 A level results, there should be as little change as possible to overcome the problems. At Edexcel, we have tried to keep to this principle wherever we can.

The major change to the specification is that the existing core material, currently contained in P1-P3, has been re-packaged in four units C1-C4. C1 and C2 comprise the AS core; C3 and C4 comprise the A2 core. The core material now represents two-thirds of the A level whereas previously it was half; thus candidates will now only sit two Applications units (Mechanics, Statistics or Decision Mathematics) instead of three.

Edexcel's Applications units (Mechanics, Statistics or Decision Mathematics) are essentially the same for the new specification as they are for the current existing specification.

For Mathematics, it is now the case that an A level can, in some cases, consist of four AS units and two **A2** units (e.g. C1, C2, **C3**, **C4**, M1, S1) although it might consist of three AS and three **A2** units (e.g. C1, C2, **C3**, **C4**, M1, **M2**).

Single Award Mathematics:

There are only three combinations permissible for AS Mathematics: C1, C2 and one of M1, S1 or D1.

There are only six combinations permissible for A level Mathematics: C1-C4 with one of (M1, M2); (S1, S2); (D1, D2); (M1, S1); (S1, D1); (M1, D1).

Further Mathematics:

At AS Level: Further Pure Mathematics unit FP1 plus two other units (excluding C1—C4). Candidates who are awarded certificates in both Advanced GCE Mathematics and AS Further Mathematics must use unit results from 9 different teaching modules.

At A level: Further Pure Mathematics units FP1, FP2, FP3 and a further three Applications units (excluding C1—C4) to make a total of six units; **or** FP1, either FP2 or FP3 and a further four Applications units (excluding C1—C4) to make a total of six units. Candidates who are awarded certificates in both Advanced GCE Mathematics and Advanced GCE Further Mathematics must use unit results from 12 different teaching modules.

All awarding bodies have had their Pure Mathematics P4-P6 units retitled as Further Pure Mathematics FP1-FP3. Edexcel's FP1, FP2 and FP3 are the same in content as our current P4, P5 and P6 respectively; only the titles have changed.

Edexcel was given the option by QCA of running FP1 as an AS unit but declined to do so for a number of reasons. Firstly, it would have meant changing the content of the current P4 and thus of P5 and P6 as well - this would mean more change for centres and possibly extra expense on new textbooks; it would also mean that past papers would no longer be appropriate. Secondly, centres in general have indicated to us that they tend to cover Mathematics units in Year 12 and Further Mathematics in Year 13.

Pure Mathematics:

At AS level this title comprises Pure Mathematics units C1, C2 and C3 and at A level Pure Mathematics units C1, C2, C3, C4, FP1, and either FP2 or FP3.

Applications units:

Applications units remain the same under the current specification, although some have been withdrawn. In particular, M6 and S6 have been deleted since single Mathematics now only requires two Applications units.

S4 and S5 have also been deleted due to the low numbers entering these units over the last few years. S3 is the same, but no longer has a coursework element and so is assessed entirely on the written paper.

AS Mechanics, Discrete Mathematics and Applied Mathematics:

These titles are no longer allowed by QCA and so there are no combinations of units which will lead to them.

AS and A level Statistics:

Statistics as a title at AS and A level is no longer allowed within the unitary system; any specification leading to these titles has to be stand-alone. Edexcel considered producing separate specifications for these titles but did not proceed owing to the low numbers of candidates who had been cashing-in for AS and A level Statistics in the last few years.

Coursework:

There is no longer any coursework element in any of the units at AS/A level.

Calculators:

Rules on calculators have been amended for the new specification: Unit C1 is now entirely non-calculator. In all other units, any calculators may be used which are allowed by the Joint Council for General Qualifications (these can be found under paragraph 3 of the Instructions for the Conduct of Examinations).

Specimen Papers:

Specimen Papers for the new specification are currently with QCA awaiting approval; our specimen papers for FP1/P4, FP2/P5, FP3/P6, M1-M5, S1-S3, D1 and D2 will be essentially the same as those for Curriculum 2000 and which many of you will have already.

Transition Arrangements:

Since the specifications for all units except P1-P3 remains fundamentally the same, credit for any units except P1-P3 taken under the existing specification will be transferred over to the new one if required. Any credit (i.e. UMS marks on the bank) outstanding for units P4, P5 and P6 will be transferred to FP1, FP2 and FP3 respectively.

First Certification Dates:

QCA have allowed first AS certification for the new specifications with combinations (using C1 and C2) to be January 2005; the first certification date for A level (using C1-C4) will be June 2005.

Unit and cash-in codes:

There are different cash-in codes for the existing and new specifications so that grading can run efficiently in the January 2005, June 2005 and January 2006 sessions. These appear in the specification.