



DRAYTON MANOR HIGH SCHOOL

Information about the GCSE exams

- You will take either the Foundation tier (grades 1 to 5) or the Higher tier (grades 4 to 9) paper.
- You will sit three papers – one non-calculator and two with a calculator.
- The papers will be 1 hour 30 minutes long.
- There will be 80 marks available on each paper.
- You will be given a formula sheet.
- The papers will include three different types of question:

Type of question	Percentage of marks (%)		Examples of command words	Description
	Foun.	Higher		
Using and applying standard techniques fluently	50	40	Calculate	Determine the sum, difference, product or quotient of numbers.
			Convert	Change a value into a different form or a measure into a different unit.
			Estimate	Use approximations, by rounding to one significant figure, to work out a value.
			Simplify fully	Collect like terms or cancel a fraction.
Reasoning, interpreting and communicating	25	30	Explain	Write a sentence or a mathematical statement to show how you got to your answer or reached your conclusion.
			Give a reason	Show a calculation and / or written evidence for your answer.
			Prove	Give a formal algebraic or geometric proof.
			Show	Give every step of a process that will lead to the required outcome.
Solving problems in mathematics and other contexts	25	30	Evaluate	Decide if methods used and results obtained are accurate and whether they have been affected by assumptions.
			Find	Use the information given in the problem to work out more information.
			Solve	Find the value of the variable in the question.
			Work out	Use calculations and other methods to reach a solution.

What would you recommend I do to prepare for the GCSE Mathematics examination?

1. **Answer exam-style questions, particularly problem-solving and reasoning questions.** The more exam questions answered, the more you become familiar with the style of GCSE papers.
2. When working on practice papers, write out **all the steps** used in solving a problem or the **all parts of your reasoning** to make sure they get full marks.
3. Use **Sparx Maths** to revise topics.
4. Use Maths Genie (www.mathsgenie.co.uk) for further revision and exam-style questions on specific topics.
5. Have the **correct exam equipment** (a scientific calculator and geometry set), which they should be using to practise in lessons and at home before the exams.

What are the recommended resources to support my learning?

There are a number of revision guides and workbooks for the GCSE (see examples below). The most useful have questions to check understanding and a specimen exam paper. Make sure the guide or workbook is compatible with the specification we are following (Exam board: Edexcel, Code: 1MA1).

