

I'm not a bot



to put in the effort, there's no reason you can't pass comfortably. Is Maths a good option for A Level? Absolutely! Maths is one of the most respected and versatile subjects available. It opens doors to a wide range of careers from finance and engineering to psychology and computer science. Even if you're not sure of your future path yet, Maths is a solid choice that keeps lots of options open. Boost Your Confidence With Save My Exams! Feeling stressed ahead of your exams? Join over 1.5 million students who use Save My Exams, the leading online revision platform. On average, students who use Save My Exams improve by two grades thanks to our comprehensive resources. From past papers and revision notes to exam-style questions tailored to your specific course, our revision tools help you to study smarter, not harder. Created by teachers and examiners who know exactly what you need to revise to achieve the best grades, our resources help students to save time and get straight to the content you need. Explore Our A Level Maths Revision Resources If you're thinking about how hard is maths A level Maths, know that Maths is infamous for being difficult. But, like any other GCSE or A-Level subject, its tough depending on the particular student. For example, some students may breeze through A-level maths if they are good at analytical ability and problem-solving. Since you're browsing through A-Level Maths, were going to assume you're done with or in the process of completing your GCSE. So, with that said, lets get started on How hard is A Level Maths? Is A Level Maths Hard? What to Expect & How to SucceedNo, it is not! If you compare A-level maths with GCSE Maths, its definitely more difficult. Youll have a hard time here if you dont have a good grade (at least a six or a B) overall in your GCSE Maths exams. The first year of A-Level Maths is fairly similar to GCSE Maths in terms of difficulty. The difficulty of A-Level Maths increases only in the second year this is when your mathematical ability will be truly tested. However, if you only compare pass rates, A-Level Maths has a 96.3 per cent pass rate, while GCSE Maths has a 55.4 per cent pass rate. Take a look at the following graph of students who got an A* in 2019-2021. The percentage is much higher than in English literature and language, which is supposed to be easier than in Maths. This suggests that students who studied A level maths papers are mathematically proficient to a semi-good level. On the contrary, there is no such grade filter at GCSE. Hence, the average standard is substantially lower. So, I hope you get your answer to the question: is A level maths hard? With that said, the following are the topics in GCSE Maths (for Edexcel exam board) GCSE Maths Syllabus GCSE Maths: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion, Rates of Change, Geometry, Measures, Probability, Statistics, Compare the GCSE syllabus with A-Level Maths topics: A level Maths Syllabus: Pure Maths/Core Maths 1. Proof 2. Algebra and Functions 3. Coordinate Geometry 4. Sequences and Series 5. Trigonometry 6. Exponentials and Logarithms 7. Differentiation 8. Integration 9. Numerical Methods 10. Vectors Statistics 1. Statistical Sampling 2. Data Presentation and Interpretation 3. Probability 4. Statistical Distributions 5. Statistical Hypothesis Testing Mechanics 1. Quantities and Units in Mechanics 2. Kinematics 3. Forces and Newtons Laws 4. Moments You can see how much broader A-Level Mathematics is. Your A-level exam questions will also reflect the same level of diversity in their topics. The curriculum is similar to GCSE Maths in some ways. However, the topic is much more difficult. On that note, the hardest topic in A Level Maths, according to the students, are Integration and Vectors. In addition, the fact that may make the subject harder for you is that there is a lot more independent study required in A-Level as compared to GCSE. However, study materials are plentiful. Your tolerance for hard work will mostly be the limiting factor here. Thus, the step up from GCSE is why the requirement to study A-Level Maths is a grade of 6 or a B in GCSE Maths. The majority of your study will be based on the knowledge you gained in GCSE. How Hard A Level Maths Exam Questions Paper? A-Level exams and, in turn, the exam papers are typically longer and worth significantly more marks. GCSE Maths questions frequently feature a lead-up paragraph that directs you down the correct route to answer the question. The paragraph will imply a general concept of what abilities you should use to solve the question. As a result, the only thing that would prevent you from answering the question is if you lacked the necessary abilities - it wouldnt be that you employed the incorrect Maths skills. In contrast, A-level maths topic questions often dont guide you in the proper direction. In fact, to achieve the marks for an A-Level Maths question, you must have not only the mathematical skills but also the ability to decipher which skill to use. A level Exam vs GCSE Exam GCSE students will take three maths examinations (1 non-calculator, 2 calculator) at the conclusion of Year 11. The mark schemes for these papers total 80 for each paper. As a result, the final GCSE Maths score is out of 240. The substance of each paper is nearly the same, and there are no significant differences in question types between papers. Similarly, A-Level students will take three math papers (all calculators) at the conclusion of Year 13. However, these papers will instead be worth 100 marks each. As a result, the final A-Level Maths marks is out of 300. The first two A-Level Maths examinations are all about pure maths, but the third A-Level Maths paper is all about statistics and mechanics. Mechanics (paper 3) is very close to GCSE and A-Level Physics. It means that 17% of A-Level Maths is essentially physics-based. As a result, if physics was a particularly weak subject for you at GCSE, it will have a significant impact on your performance in the third A-Level Maths paper, dragging your overall grade down this might make the A-Level extremely difficult for some students. This means that how you approach a question in an A-Level Maths paper will be very different from how you tackle a question in a GCSE Maths paper. Why Do You Find A-Level Maths So Hard? Whenever you start the math course at A level, you start thinking about how hard is a level maths. Now, I will uncover some facts which students find difficult while attending the A-level exam, especially in the Maths exam. Find the reasons below: It means that on the A-level stage, Maths covers topics that are pretty difficult to understand as it teaches advanced topics, such as calculus, statistics, mechanics, and algebra. These topics need a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and their practical applications. As you landed the A level maths, now you have to study hard and put effort into learning maths well. Thats why students fall behind in getting good grades in A-level. Not only that, a level exam requires rigorous practice, dedication and more to achieve an A in A level Mathematics. Hence, you must work hard, develop a study plan and practice a level of past papers to understand the exam patterns well and more. If you do not understand the fundamental maths topics well, you will struggle to do well in the advanced maths course. It means that your basic skills in maths will play a crucial role in learning advanced maths topics. With that in mind, polish your fundamental maths topics, which are numbers, Algebra, Geometry and more, and then move ahead with the A-level advanced maths topics. You know maths is all about understanding the enigmatic nature of it with the right sort of approaches and more. But often, students memorise the process and everything, hence, during the A-level maths exam, they get puzzled by the maths questions. As they memorise the maths, students get bemused when they find maths that is not an exact match of the maths they memorised. So, remember you will be in trouble if you try to remember the maths one by one instead of trying to understand the maths well. It is so easy when you resolve the maths process in the right ways; hence, take your time and understand it. FAQs Is A Level maths the hardest A Level? If you go by the past performance of A-Level students, A-Level Maths is quite challenging, but it isnt the hardest by any stretch of the imagination. What percentage of people get an A* in A-level mathematics? According to data from the Joint Council for Qualifications, in the academic year 2018-2019, around 25% of students achieved an A* grade in A Level Mathematics. Is it hard to get a 9 in GCSE Maths is a higher mark than an A* because it is intended to distinguish the highest-achieving students. Grade 9s accounted for 6.6% of all GCSE results in England in 2020, somewhat higher than the previous year, but still a tiny proportion. What are the 3 Hardest A-Levels? Its difficult to rank subjects (A-Level courses) in terms of their difficulty here. But among the subjects that are quite challenging in A-Level- Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, English Literature, Art, Psychology, Computer Programming, Business Studies and Music are just a few. What are the Easiest A levels? The same logic (A level difficulty ranking) as above applies here. It depends on the students. However, students have commonly quoted Classical Civilisation, Drama, Geography, Textiles, Health and Social Care, Media Studies, Environmental Science, Food Studies, Film Studies, Sociology, Information Technology (IT), and Law to be easier than other subjects mentioned above. How hard is A Level Maths compared to GCSE? The content you learn at A-Level Maths is generally similar to that which you learned at your GCSE, but more in-depth and complex; it will require you to do additional reading as part of your studying and learning, and you will also need to keep up with your revision. Different exam boards will vary from one syllabus to another. Is Physics A-level harder than Maths? To some extent, yes. A-Level Physics can be somewhat difficult to understand without a solid understanding of concepts from A-Level Maths. A-Level Physics is a significant step up from GCSE Physics, and it tests even the most talented science students. There is a significant amount of math, and the material is challenging to comprehend. Is Mathematics A-level Harder than Biology? Not necessarily. Biology is more about memorising and learning, but math is more logical. Math will undoubtedly be challenging in the beginning. What Percentage of Students Get an A in A-Level Maths? The percentage of students who receive an A grade in maths can vary widely from year to year, depending on the difficulty of the exam and the qualifications of the candidates. How much more content does A-level maths have compared to GCSE Maths? Generally speaking, the most recent statistics indicate that about 21% of A-level maths students in England achieved an A grade in 2020. How does the style of exam questions compare between A-Level and GCSE? A-Level Maths contains far more content than GCSE Maths, requiring students to demonstrate a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts as well as the ability to apply them to unfamiliar problems. How do the final exams compare between A-Level Maths and GCSE Maths? The A-Level Maths exams are typically longer, more in-depth and contain questions which require higher-level analytical thinking compared to the shorter, more structured questions found in GCSE Maths exams. Conclusion So, is A level maths hard? Statistically speaking, it isnt any more demanding. We even showed that in the blog. Hard work and learning from competent teachers will overcome nearly all challenges in A-Level Maths, so feel encouraged to reconsider A-Level Maths perhaps it is for you after all? What to Read Next: When you are choosing your A Levels you should think about three main things do you enjoy the subject, will it lead to a job of your choice and will you succeed and get a good grade in the subject? You also need to think about what a good grade would mean for you for some people they need to get an A* or A, whereas other students can start their university degree quite happily with lower grades. In this article we are talking about A Level Maths but the same general ideas can be applied in Scotland where the structure of examinations is different. This brings us back to the question of whether A Level maths is harder than other subjects. You might hear rumours about A Level maths being hard, however the statistics definitely dont back this up. In 2019, 41% of candidates achieved an A* or A in A Level Maths, whereas in A Level English Literature only 24% of candidates got these top grades. When we look at a wider range of grades, 75% of candidates achieved A* C in A Level Maths and in English Literature this was 80% (not that different). It is also important to note that A Level maths was taken by over 91,000 students in 2019, which made it the most popular A Level of that year. These figures show that it is possible for a large number of students to achieve good grades in A Level Maths, which is very encouraging for anyone thinking about choosing to study Maths at A Level. A Level Maths is highly regarded by universities, and employers are still saying that they need more people with maths skills, particularly as the economy becomes more focused on technology. Before you start a course in A Level Maths it is vital to have the right background knowledge and skills. Teachers will be able to give you advice about which Grade you need at GCSE to have a good chance of being successful at A Level. Despite this, there are still people who got a really good grade at GCSE who think that A Level Maths will be too hard for them. This is unlikely to be the case if you have the right entry grades and are prepared to work hard, then nearly everyone will be successful in their A Level Maths. For mature students, it isnt as easy to simply look at their GCSE grade and predict whether they will be able to succeed at A Level Maths sometimes these students can make up for lost ground by hard work or the extra maturity they have gained in the many years since they last studied maths. And of course there may be some pupils who got a lower grade at GCSE due to illness or exceptional circumstances and are able to overcome this at the next stage. This is why it is so important to talk to the teachers who know you and ask their advice about whether they think you could succeed at A Level Maths. In A Level Further Maths a whopping 50% of candidates got an A* or A in 2019. Obviously this is due to self selection usually only the students who achieve most highly at GCSE go on to take A Level Further Maths. If you want to study a maths based course at university such as maths, physics or engineering, then Further Maths A Level will be beneficial and sometimes almost compulsory, depending on where you choose to study. Find out more about degree courses and A Level maths. There are lots of myths surrounding mathematics and one of them is that you wake up one day with an innate ability to do maths which is fixed and can never be changed. If you look around the world, then there are big differences in how countries perform when it comes to maths. This shows that there are lots of factors at play including culture, teaching methods and also the amount of work put in by students. (The Pisa world rankings for maths are currently topped by parts of China.) Lets consider an analogy with athletics; more specifically, with the high jump. Is the high jump hard? The answer is yes if you are trying to break an Olympic record. Even if you can do it, its hard! On the other hand, if the bar is 2 cm off the ground it is easy, as long as you are able-bodied. Somewhere in between we all have a personal best height, different for each of us. Very often, with some effort, perseverance and training we can improve our personal best, and there is a lot of satisfaction in doing so. Similarly in mathematics, if you are trying to prove, say, Fermats last theorem, it is hard; even if you can do it, its hard (Andrew Wiles, who proved it in the 1990s, took over ten years of dedicated effort to do so!). On the other hand, at the level of two plus two equals four, most of us find it easy. Somewhere in between we all get to a point where we find it hard; we all have a personal best where we start to struggle, different for each of us. However, as with the high jump, with effort, perseverance and training (education) we can often improve our capability. There is a lot of satisfaction in being able to understand something today that we didnt understand yesterday. Most real-world applications of mathematics dont require the level of knowledge and understanding needed to solve Fermats last theorem. We can all raise our personal best mathematical bar to the point where we can make good use of our mathematical know-how. Many people feel a real fear when it comes to mathematics and this can stop them from achieving their personal best. If this applies to you, then it is worth acknowledging this barrier and also seeking help from your teachers, friends and family. It can also be useful to try out different learning techniques such as watching YouTube videos about maths or spending time working in a group with your friends. A major area of breakthrough can simply be to realise that everyone can improve with a combination of hard work and the right teaching and encouragement your attainment is not fixed. For some pupils they might just move up one grade (a major triumph), but for other students they can find that they can do more than they ever dreamed. Of course some maths is hard there are advanced mathematical proofs which are only understood by a small handful of people in the whole world, partly because they take many years of study to understand them. Even professional mathematicians dont have time to learn everything! A Level Maths is definitely not in this category, as tens of thousands of students fully master the content each year, and student achievement suggests that Maths A Level is not statistically harder than other A Levels. A Level Maths is not harder than other subjects at A Level however this doesnt mean you wont have to work hard of course you will. There might be times when you feel overwhelmed or confused, just like you would when trying to write an extended A Level essay on Shakespeare. Hard work and good teaching will overcome nearly all difficulties in A Level Maths so feel encouraged to take a second look at A Level Maths maybe it is for you after all? Career Profile Read this amazing interview with Martine Barons who studied A Level Maths as a mature student after being told at school that she wasnt good enough at maths. Martine is now the Director of the Applied Statistics and Risk Unit at the University of Warwick and this is an incredible case of someone raising their personal best in mathematics way beyond expectations. Page 2

Is higher level maths hard. Is level 1 maths hard. Is a level maths hard. How hard is a level further mathematics. How difficult is a level maths. Is maths the hardest a level.