

Additional Qualifications

Extended Project Qualification – Level 3

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) provides students with the opportunity to explore a topic that interests them. The EPQ has no exams, just coursework, and you'll need to be self-motivated and enjoy working independently. You will learn skills that are highly valued in Higher Education, such as research, developing arguments, and organisation and presentation skills. The EPQ carries UCAS points and is highly regarded by many universities. It can't be used against a grade offer (such as AAA) but some universities may offer an alternative for candidates studying the EPQ (such as ABB instead of AAB).

Subject content

You can decide what you want to study. With the help of teachers, you'll choose a topic to explore – it is recommended the topic is one you might like to study in Higher Education, or pursue as a career. There are four types of projects to pick from:

- Write a dissertation
- Produce an artefact, like sculpture, model or DVD
- Develop and showcase a performance (sport, drama or music)
- Conduct an investigation/field study

Examples of previous projects:

- Do violent computer games contribute to anti-social behaviour?
- What are the effects of terrorism on society?
- Is climate change everyone's responsibility?
- Is it ethical to genetically engineer babies for designer purposes?

Core Maths

Core Maths is a newly developed one-year qualification, carrying the same number of UCAS points as an AS Level. This Level 3 certificate in Mathematical Studies is beneficial to students in maintaining their mathematical skills from GCSE and developing these skills further. It supports students well for progression to future study or employment that requires skills in quantitative reasoning and critical analysis. Many students have found the style of Core Maths has given them a new insight into the subject and they have enjoyed seeing how maths can be applied in a wide range of meaningful contexts, either relating to their other A Level courses or in everyday situations such as personal finance.

Subject content

The skills developed in the study of mathematics are increasingly important in the workplace and in Higher Education; studying Core Maths will help you keep up these essential skills. Most students who study maths after GCSE improve their career choices and increase their earning

potential. The course has been designed to maintain and develop real-life maths skills. Unlike A Level maths, where there is an emphasis on algebra and purely abstract mathematical thought, with Core Maths the focus is instead on using maths in real contexts, such as interpreting data from the media and personal finance. The emphasis on problem solving and modelling supports the study of other A Level subjects – in particular, Business, Economics, Geography, PE, Psychology and Science.

Entry requirements

You will need to have a Grade 5 or above in GCSE Maths to be accepted onto the course. Students with a Grade 4 will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. This course is unique as it is a one-year qualification, meaning that you can study Core Maths in Year 12 or Year 13. Since Core Maths is designed to support the study of other A Level subjects, it is studied alongside your A Levels, meaning that it is taken as a fourth subject.

Assessment

This is a one-year qualification with two exams at the end (no coursework). Each exam is 1 hour 30 minutes. **Paper 1** – Compulsory content: analysis of data, finance, estimation and critical analysis of given data and models. **Paper 2** – Either Statistical Techniques (probability, the normal distribution, correlation and regression) or Critical Paths and Risk Analysis (critical path analysis, expectation and cost benefit analysis).

Progression

Core Maths plays a vital role, not only supporting students with the mathematical content in their other subjects but providing an opportunity for students to continue with their mathematical study in situations when A Level Mathematics may not be appropriate.

Last updated: 20th September 2019

Want to apply?

Visit <https://www.barnsleysixthformcollege.co.uk/apply> to get started
Call us on **01226 216 123**