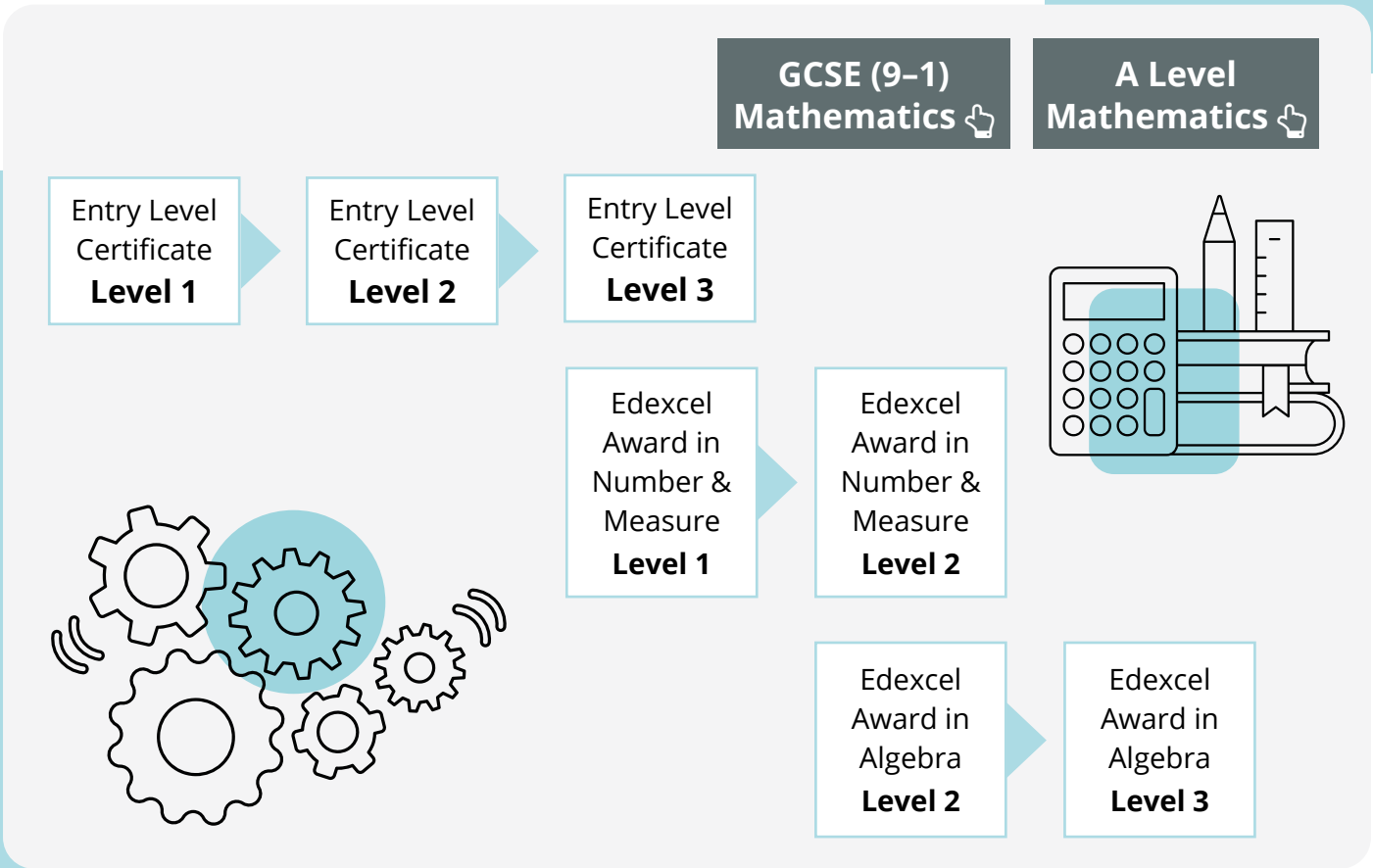
Entry Level Certificate and Edexcel Awards in Mathematics: Myth Busting!

At Pearson Edexcel we know that every learning journey is unique. That's why we have a range of qualifications that support progression, provide challenge and deepen learners' understanding at different stages of learning.

Our **Entry Level Certificate in Maths** and the **Edexcel Awards** perfectly complement our world-class GCSEs in Mathematics and Statistics.



Contents

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Entry Level Certificate (ELC) in Maths: **Myth Busting!**

Our **Entry Level Certificate in Mathematics** has specifically been designed to complement the GCSE (9–1) Mathematics qualification, enabling lower attainers to develop the underpinning mathematical skills and understanding to progress to GCSE Mathematics.

We've created our ELC Maths qualification to be:

- easy to co-teach with GCSE Mathematics
- designed around the needs of students at this level
- straightforward to administer and manage
- encourage a clear progression to GCSE.

MYTH	TRUTH
ELC Mathematics cannot be taught alongside GCSE Mathematics	The content of our new specification is based on the key underpinning skills and concepts of GCSE (9–1) Mathematics. The new topics at Entry Level Certificate Level 3 have been carefully selected from the more accessible topics in GCSE (9–1) Mathematics. We have mapped ELC Mathematics topic areas to the GCSE Mathematics *Access to Foundation* tier Scheme of Work to show how ELC Mathematics supports and prepares learners for GCSE Mathematics.
The ELC assessments must be sat under exam conditions	While all the assessments must be formally supervised, they can be administered in a normal classroom environment. There is no set time limit and no set exam day, meaning that learners can sit the assessments in a way which suits their needs. Our **teacher guidance document** models how the assessments can be delivered to students and has suggested resources that can be used to support learners completing the assessments. For example, if a student has difficulty accessing two-dimensional diagrams, schools may give them real objects that look like those illustrated in the mathematics tests/tasks.
ELC Mathematics is tricky to administer and manage	We've made our assessments as straightforward as possible to manage. There are two assessment components at each of Entry Level 1 and Entry Level 2 and three assessment components at Entry Level 3. All the assessments are marked by the teacher against straightforward points-based mark schemes and moderated by Pearson Edexcel. When it is time to submit the students work, **here's a handy checklist** to ensure you've got everything you need.
A new set of assessments is released every year	We have released three sets of assessments at each entry level – **these are in place for the lifetime of the qualification**. You will find them on **our website** under gold padlock, meaning you will need to have made entries before being able to access the assessments. We do also have some **specimen sets** for use as practice papers, but these cannot be used as the assessments that are submitted for certification.

Edexcel Awards in Maths: **Myth Busting!**

Our **Edexcel Awards in Mathematics** are standalone qualifications designed to help students build their confidence and skills in different areas of maths. Edexcel Awards in Mathematics focus on key concepts and techniques to help students prepare for GCSE and A level Maths, for further study in other subjects, or for the workplace.

Edexcel Awards in Mathematics can help students to progress:

- **in mathematics:** Edexcel Awards can help students master mathematical concepts, either before or alongside GCSE and A level. When offered before GCSE and A level Mathematics, they can help students prepare. When offered alongside, they can support students who need help with the techniques.
- **in other subjects that require mathematical skills:** They can help students learn the key mathematical concepts they will need to study other subjects, many of which require a degree of mathematical knowledge to fully succeed.
- **to further study, training or employment:** For students who haven't achieved GCSE or A level Mathematics, these qualifications can help them demonstrate their level of mathematical ability for further study or employment.

MYTH	TRUTH
The Edexcel Awards need to be timetabled for a specific number of hours each week	The Edexcel Award Number and Measure has a recommended number of 60–70 guided learning hours. Edexcel Award Algebra has a recommended number of 60 guided learning hours. This does not have to be scheduled separately but can be co-taught with other Mathematics programmes that are being delivered, so the delivery time allocated may be more or less than this, according to delivery plans and individual learner needs.
The Edexcel Awards are standalone qualifications and cannot be used to support progression	The Edexcel Awards can support progression onto many different Mathematics programmes. They can be co-taught alongside other Maths qualifications or used as a stepping stone to achieve further Mathematics qualifications. Edexcel Awards support progression onto: GCSE Mathematics, International GCSE Mathematics, Entry Level Certificate in Mathematics, and Level 2 qualifications in other numerate disciplines such as in Science, Economics and Business.
Edexcel Awards do not provide any UCAS points	The Edexcel Award Level 3 Algebra provides the learner with 3 UCAS points. Here is a link to the **tariff table**.
You are only able to sit Level 3 Algebra if you are a Level 3 student	Pearson's access policy concerning recruitment to our qualifications is that they must be available to anyone who can reach the required standard. This means that the Level 3 qualification can be sat by learners who are not yet studying other qualifications but are working at that grade.