

Edexcel International GCSE/ International A Level

Mathematics

Bridging the Gap

Event code: YMA01-20IO3

First teaching in 2018, first assessment 2019



Session agenda

10:00	Welcome and introductions
10.10	International GCSE and GCE Features
10:10	Is there a gap between International GCSE and P1? Prior knowledge
10:40	Dealing with the gap
11.05	Keeping them going
11.25	Teaching and Learning
11.40	Getting started
12.00	Finish



Aims and objectives

- Learn effective ways to get students to 'hit the ground running' when they transfer to Advanced level
- Learn how to strike the necessary balance between students gaining a realistic understanding of the significantly higher level of work and commitment required at A level and students being motivated to believe that this is the course for them and that they are capable of achieving success
- Learn how to use teaching and learning strategies which develop and enhance independent learning in students
- Gain an appreciation of the key differences in assessment at Advanced level compared to GCSE and the implications of those differences for teaching and learning



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Polls to get to know the delegates



Is there a gap – what do students think?

- “I got an A at GCSE maths doing no work whatsoever. I got a D at AS level maths doing no work whatsoever. There's your difference.”
 - “I did iG maths and had a B in it. A level is proving to be very difficult for me especially statistics and trigonometry. Nothing like iG, its a huge jump.”
 - “With the current schemes of work, they are starting to introduce more and more A level concepts into GCSE; this means that most of the A level schemes of work are an extension to what you did at GCSE. Although there are many new things to learn at A level, the jump from GCSE to A level is relatively smaller this year than what it was in the previous years.”
- “Take look at your scientific calculator, you use more than the number buttons at A level”

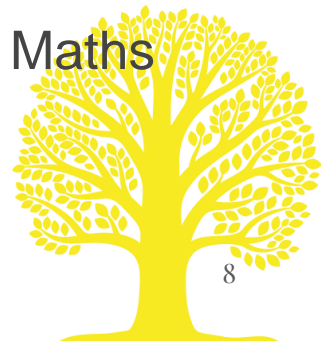


Is there a gap – what do teachers think?

- Teachers considered that students were prepared adequately for AS/A level courses in most areas of mathematics.
- However, several areas were identified where GCSEs were considered not to prepare students well.
- These were: Proof (68%), Unstructured problem solving (54%), Algebraic fluency (44%)

Teachers' and employers' views on the transition from GCSE mathematics to A-level mathematics or employment: Rushton R and Wilson W BERA 2014

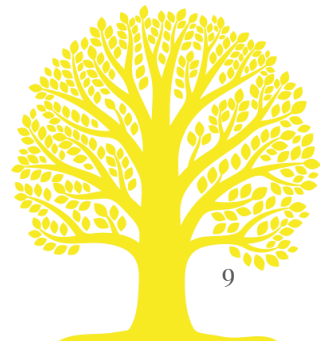
- At the time of writing the impact of the new International GCSE Maths is unknown as is the new International A level.



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

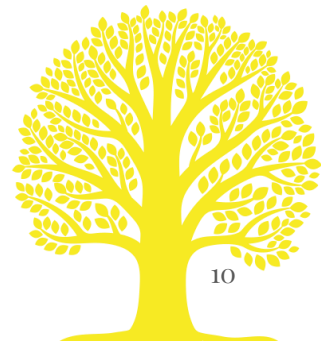
Activity 1

- This activity asks you to put down for a part of the P1 spec what you think is the prior knowledge required for the first section of P1.



There is a gap!

- . Increased content to learn about
- . Increased level of sophistication of the content
- . New areas of study – M1, S1 and D1
- . Increased demands on problem solving
- . Increased demands on proofs and arguments
- . Modelling



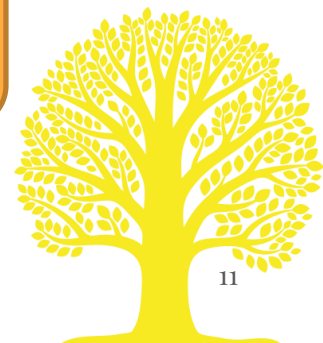
Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

Students need to accumulate knowledge and skills to make progress in mathematics.

In order to start an A level course, with a reasonable expectation of doing well, students should have:

- suitable prior knowledge – for example by doing well at International GCSE
- suitable work habits which can be developed in the A level course.

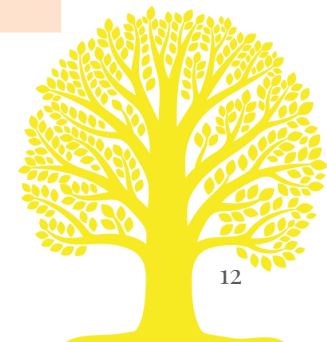
In a sample of UK students in 2013 of those who got a grade B (so equivalent to a 6) in maths GCSE about 75% got a grade E to C in A level, with 5% getting a grade A and 5% a U



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and P1

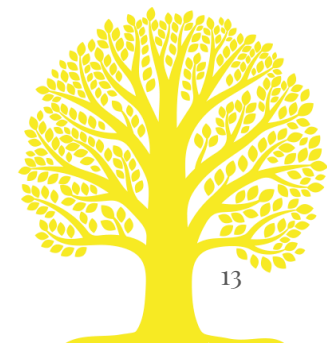
International GCSE topic	In P1	
Solve simultaneous equations linear 2 by 2 1 linear, 1 quadratic	Yes	Applied to intersection of curves
Power laws	Yes	A more searching approach
Quadratic functions	Yes	A more searching approach – leads to discriminant
Knowledge of trig graphs	Yes	Linked with transformations
Functional notation, inverses, composition of functions	No	



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and P1

International GCSE topic	In P1	
Equation of a straight line	Yes	Applied to intersection of a curve with a line; tangents and normals
Sine and cosine rules	Yes	Radians, ambiguous case
Derivatives	Yes	Any n; linked with tangents and normals, increasing and decreasing functions
Knowledge of trig graphs	Yes	Linked with transformations
		Integration is new!



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and P13

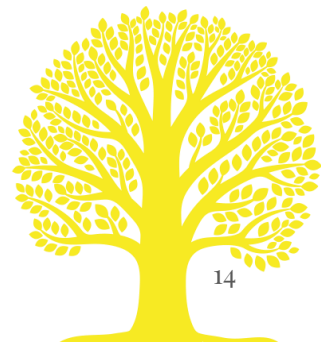
A more sophisticated approach is expected.

e.g. At GCSE: Rationalise the denominator of $\frac{2}{3 - \sqrt{3}}$

e.g. On P1: Given that x is a fraction with a rational denominator and that

$$3x = \sqrt{3x + 2}$$

find a suitable value of x .



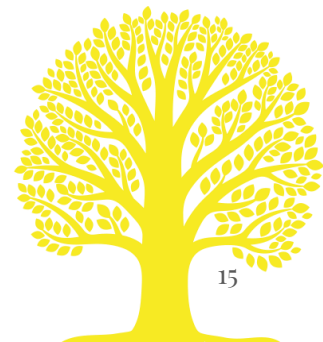
Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and P1

A more sophisticated approach is expected.

e.g. At iG: Find the value of n for which $8^n \times 16 = 2^{n+1}$

e.g. On P1: Given that $\frac{27^n}{9^m} = 3$ express n in terms of m



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and P1

A more sophisticated approach is expected.

In triangle ABC , angle $ABC = 120^\circ$.
 $BC = 6$ cm, $AC = 10$ cm.

Find the area of triangle ABC .

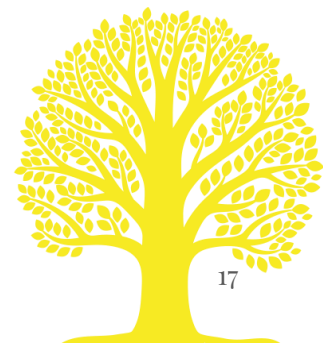


Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and P1

New material which has important consequences:

- Discriminant and the condition for real roots
- Tangents and normals to curves
- Integration
- The number of roots of an equation – from, say, a sketch graph



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and M1

Vectors especially column vectors

Apply calculus to linear kinematics

Many of the concepts in M1 are covered in Edexcel's International GCSE in Physics.

1 dimensional kinematics – graphs – equations for constant acceleration

Force – 1 dimensional problems – $F = ma$ - momentum

Moments – principle of moments for parallel forces acting on a body.



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and M1

New material

Resultant of vectors in 2 dimensions

Newton's laws in 2 dimensions

Motion of connected bodies

Inclined planes

Friction and the coefficient of friction



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and S1

Probability, addition and multiplication laws
Histograms, cumulative frequency diagrams
Means and medians of grouped data
Sets



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and S1

New material

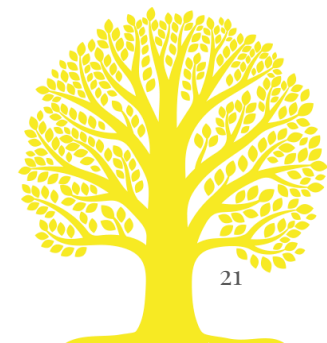
Events as sets

Regression

Correlation

Random variables, pdfs and cdfs (discrete case), expectation

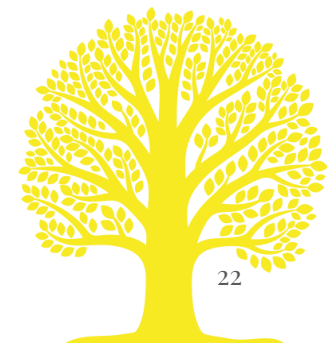
Normal distribution



Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

- Continuity between iG and D1

Linear inequalities and representation by regions in the xy plane

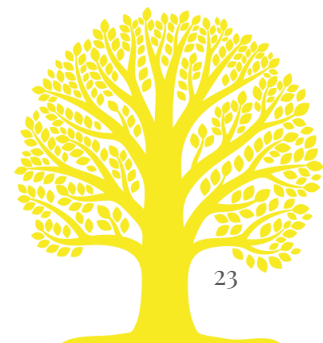


Is there a gap – prior knowledge?

Activity 2

- Look at the material on Activity 2. Decide for each question whether it came from an iG paper or from a P1 paper.

Use the 'Chat' facility for any comments you wish to make – for example, could any of the questions be suitable for an iG paper and a P1 paper?



Dealing with the transition



Dealing with the gap

- Assessing what students know at the start of the A level course

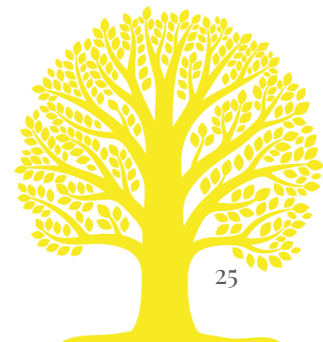
Assume they have retained everything they learned from iG

Ask the students 'Do you remember this?'

Just start the course anyway and offer to give individual support/tutorials

Assume students have forgotten just about everything

Use a diagnostic test



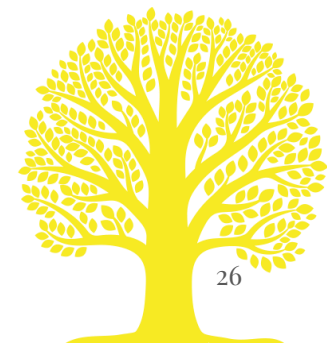
Dealing with the gap

- Assessing what students know at the start of the A level course

Assume they have retained everything they learned from iG

Puts the
responsibility for
learning prior
knowledge on the
student

Can lead to a
complete lack of
understanding that
leads to low
motivation



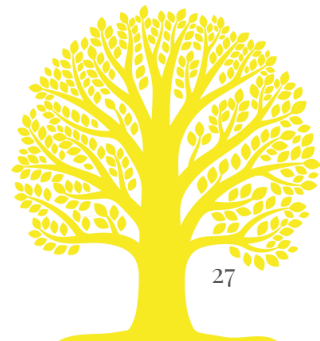
Dealing with the gap

- Assessing what students know at the start of the A level course

Ask the students ‘ Do you remember this?’

Can lead to good class discussion.
Skilled teachers can encourage students to demonstrate what they know

Students often do not know what they do not know.
Some students will be reluctant to admit lack of knowledge



Dealing with the gap

- Assessing what students know at the start of the A level course

Just start the course anyway and offer to give individual support/tutorials

Teachers can get to know students quickly.
Teachers can build up the confidence of students.
Teachers can deal with specific areas of weakness.

It can be very time consuming.
It can be difficult to organise in a school day (easier in a boarding school)



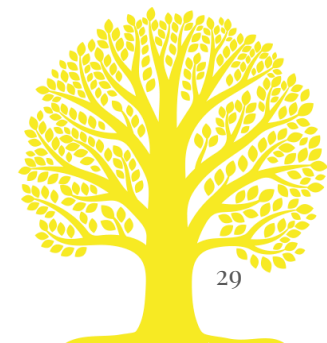
Dealing with the gap

- Assessing what students know at the start of the A level course

Assume students have forgotten just about everything – so begin a topic from the very start even though many of the ideas should have been met with International GCSE

Teachers can ensure topics are taught in the way that they feel is best.
Treats all students equally

It can be very time consuming.
It can be boring and demotivating for students



Dealing with the gap

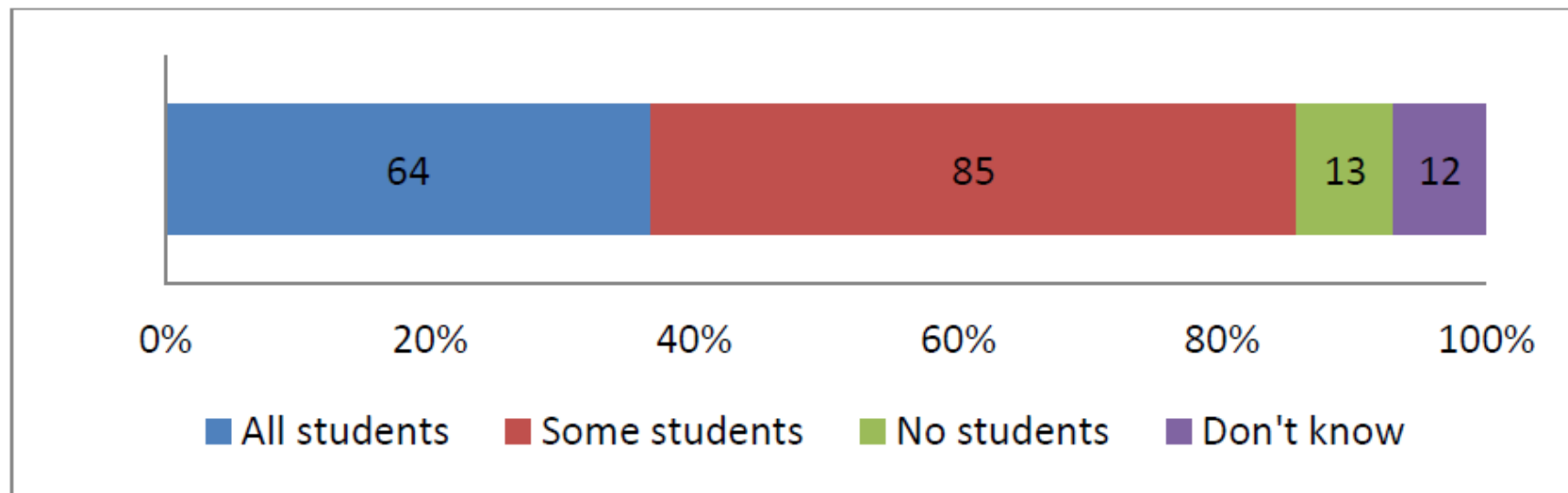
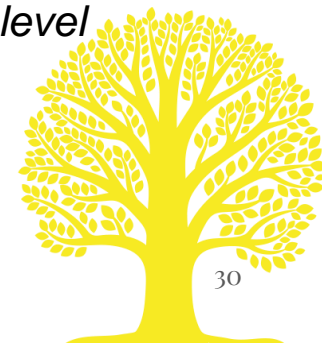


Figure 1 Extra lessons required at the start of A level mathematics

From a sample of UK schools including independent schools.

Teachers' and employers' views on the transition from GCSE mathematics to A-level mathematics or employment: Rushton R and Wilson W BERA 2014



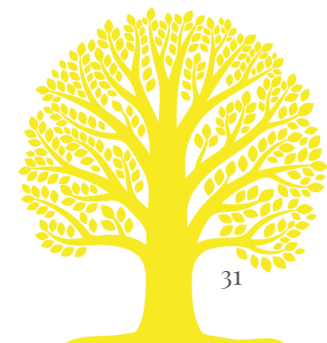
Dealing with the gap

- Assessing what students know at the start of the A level course

Use a diagnostic test

Activity 3

Look at the Entrance algebra diagnostic test and complete the poll.

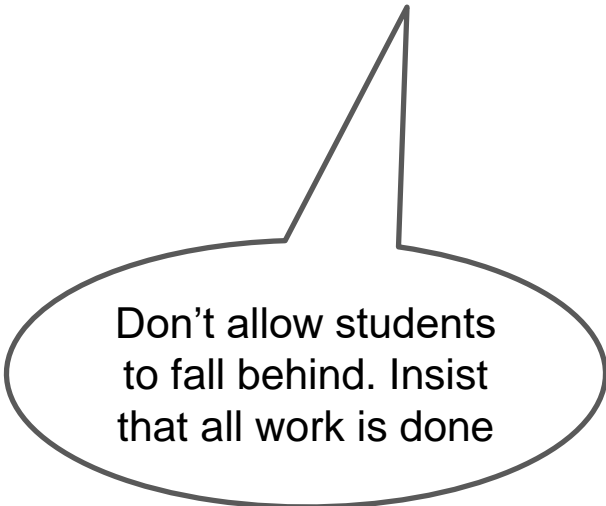


Getting a good start to the course

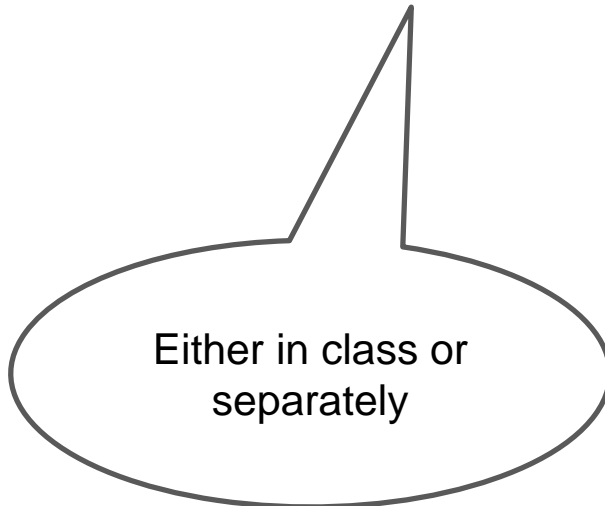


Keeping them going

- Make clear what the time commitment is from the start
- Make sure students have significant dates (unit exams, mocks, tests) in their planners
- Maintain a regular schedule of homework
- Mark students' work regularly, return promptly and follow up weaknesses



Don't allow students to fall behind. Insist that all work is done



Either in class or separately



Keeping them going

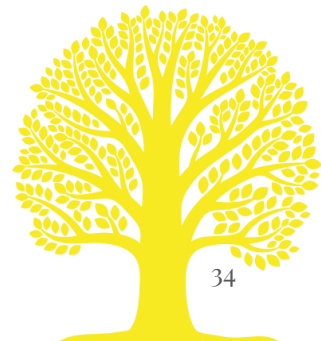
[www.bbc.co.uk › bitesize › guides › revision](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/revision)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6nygk7>

Covers some P1 topics

YouTube videos

Lots of them tend to be elementary
so good for catching up on a new
topic



Keeping them going

Help students make connections between different parts of P1

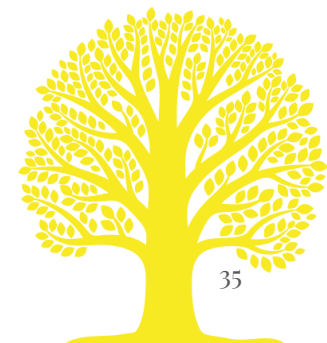
9. The equation

$$\frac{3}{x} + 5 = -2x + c$$

where c is a constant, has no real roots.

Find the range of possible values of c .

An equivalent question algebraically
would be based on the intersection
of two curves



Keeping them going

Help students make connections between different parts of P1

The equation becomes $3 + 5x = -2x^2 + cx$

Then $2x^2 + (5 - c)x + 3 = 0$

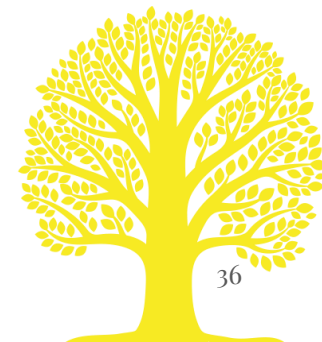
Then $(5 - c)^2 - 4 \times 2 \times 3 \leq 0$

Then $25 - 10c + c^2 - 24 \leq 0$

$c^2 - 10c + 1 \leq 0$

Critical values $\frac{1}{2}(10 \pm \sqrt{96})$ etc

It's best to try to
continue
developing asap
the problem
solving skills
they should
have from
International
GCSE



Keeping them going

Help students use mathematical models

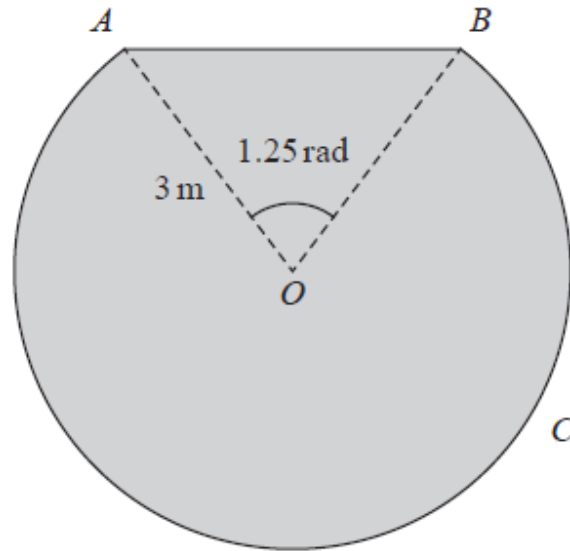


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the plan view of a design for a garden pond.

The pond consists of a sector, $AOBCA$, of a circle with centre O , joined to a triangle AOB .

Given $AO = BO = 3$ m and angle $AOB = 1.25$ radians,

(a) find the perimeter of the pond, giving your answer, in metres, to 2 decimal places.

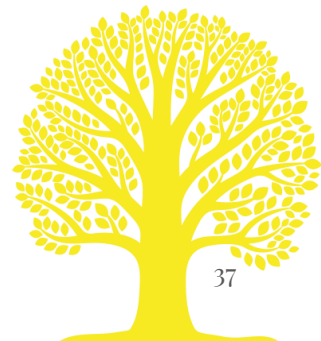
(4)

A simple model.
With radians replaced by degrees this could be a (hard) iG task

Find the length of AB using the Cosine Rule

Find the length of arc ABC using $r\theta$

Add!



Keeping them going

Help students use mathematical models.

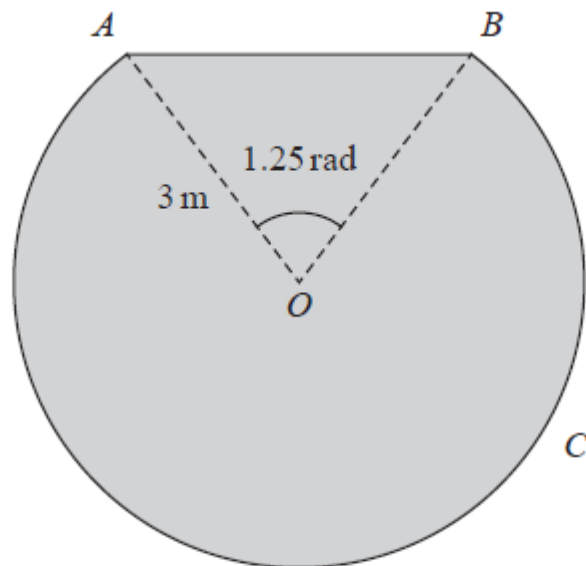


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the plan view of a design for a garden pond.

Given that there is a uniform depth of water in the pond of 1.5 m,

(b) find the volume of water in the pond, in m^3 , to one decimal place.

Knows $V = A \times d$

Finds area of triangle AOB using $\frac{1}{2}ab \sin C$

Finds area of sector ABC using $\frac{1}{2}r^2 \theta$

AOB.

(4)



Keeping them going

Help students use mathematical models in M1

At time t seconds ($t \geq 0$) a particle P has velocity $\mathbf{v} \text{ m s}^{-1}$, where

$$\mathbf{v} = (6t^2 + 6t)\mathbf{i} + (3t^2 + 24)\mathbf{j}$$

When $t = 0$ the particle P is at the origin O . At time T seconds, P is at the point A and $\mathbf{v} = \lambda(\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j})$, where λ is a constant.

Find

- (a) the value of T ,
- (b) the acceleration of P as it passes through the point A ,
- (c) the distance OA .

Student has to know that parallel vectors are scalar multiples and how to put that in mathematical form

Differentiation of vectors

Integration of vectors.

Magnitude of a vector



Keeping them going

Help students use mathematics in S1

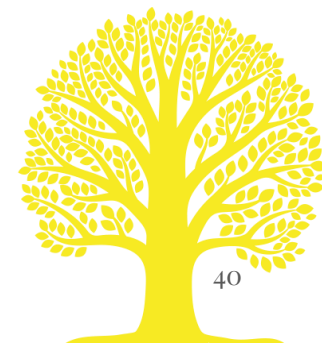
2. The time taken to complete a puzzle, in minutes, is recorded for each person in a club. The times are summarised in a grouped frequency distribution and represented by a histogram.

One of the class intervals has a frequency of 20 and is shown by a bar of width 1.5 cm and height 12 cm on the histogram. The total area under the histogram is 94.5 cm^2

Find the number of people in the club.

(3)

This form of question forces an area, rather than a frequency density approach which is seen commonly in GCSE



Teaching and learning strategies which develop and enhance independent learning in students



Teaching and learning strategies

They are just a little older than Year 11 students!

Across most countries, a strong disciplinary climate is consistently and robustly associated with better performance.*

As stated earlier, being clear about expectations in terms of punctuality, work completion and exam/test preparation is very important.

Share objectives and the timescale with the students so they know what (approximately) is going to be done when (approximately).

Give feedback often and make it supportive – suggest where and how the student can improve.

* Pisa available from <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264039520-en.pdf?expires=1576523109&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=8561ED821869803C03DC158D296E6EDB>



Teaching and learning strategies

They are just a little older than Year 11 students!

More subject-specific points:

Insist that students learn facts and formulae even if in the formula book – it will increase their fluency when it comes to solving problems

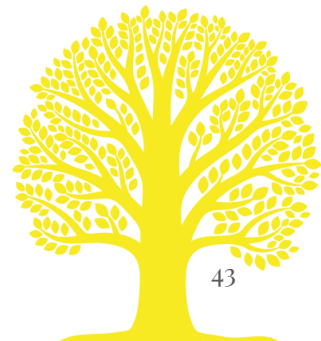
Model the solution of standard questions; set similar questions and review. The aim is all students understand the subject matter

For a 'new' topic, show how it fits in with previous topics – review and revise if necessary

Look for opportunities to make connections (An example is coming up)

Give tasks for which there is more than one approach (An example is coming up)

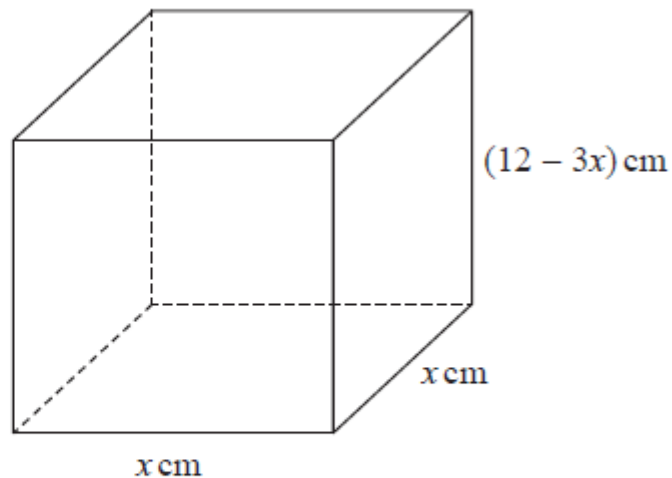
Use ICT as a time saver and expect students to do the same.



Teaching and learning strategies

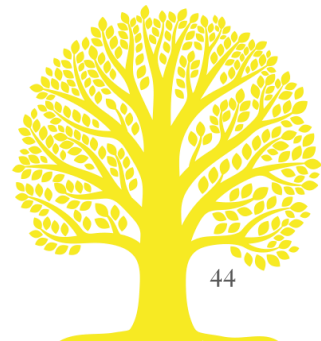
Give tasks for which there is more than one approach.

18 The diagram shows a solid cuboid.



The total surface area of the cuboid is $A \text{ cm}^2$

Find the maximum value of A .



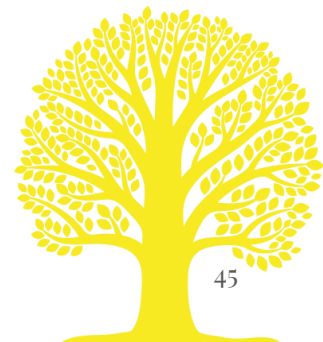
Teaching and learning strategies

Give tasks for which there is more than one approach.

Here is a second example:

Show that $\frac{4 + \sqrt{8}}{\sqrt{2} - 1}$ can be written in the form $a + b\sqrt{2}$, where a and b are integers.

Show each stage of your working clearly and give the value of a and the value of b .

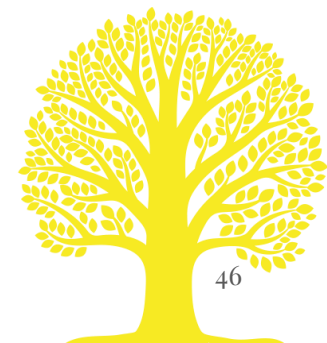


Teaching and learning strategies

Show that $\frac{4 + \sqrt{8}}{\sqrt{2} - 1}$ can be written in the form $a + b\sqrt{2}$, where a and b are integers.

Show each stage of your working clearly and give the value of a and the value of b .

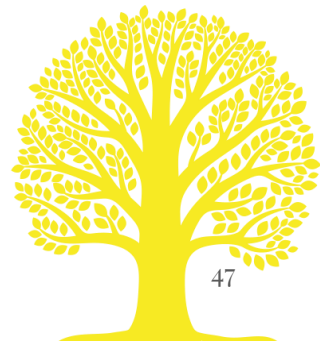
How about writing
 $4 + \sqrt{8} = (\sqrt{2} - 1)(a + b\sqrt{2})$
and looking at the implications of this?



Teaching and learning strategies

Learning strategies:

- Meta-cognitive processes – planning, monitoring and evaluating own learning of mathematical facts, concepts and techniques
- Cognitive processes – interacting with the problem to be solved, using deductive processes and mathematical manipulation to solve problems



Teaching and learning strategies

Metacognitive processes – planning, monitoring and evaluating own learning of mathematical facts, concepts and techniques

- Planning – what plan will help to solve the problem? What are the steps in outline?
- Monitoring – is the plan working ?
- Evaluating – is the solution a good one? Have I fully solved the problem?



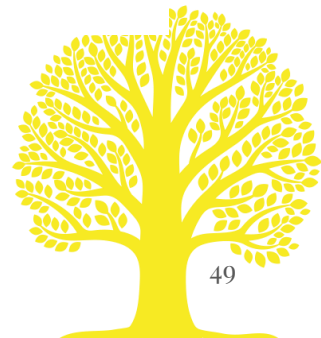
Teaching and learning strategies

Cognitive processes – interacting with the problem to be solved, using deductive processes and mathematical manipulation to solve problems

Interacting – what do I already know about this type of problem? How does this problem differ from ones I have seen before?

Using deductive processes – can I start from established results and, using the maths I have learned, come to a logical conclusion?

Mathematical manipulation – can I use e.g. algebra or can I learn something about the problem by using a different technique?



Teaching and learning strategies

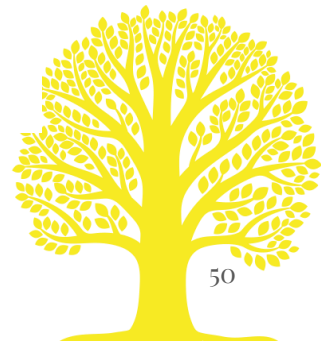
Cognitive processes – interacting with the problem to be solved, using deductive processes and mathematical manipulation to solve problems

For most students the processes they use over time fall into three groups

Memory/rehearsal – students learn by rote or by going over examples to get a ‘feel’ for the strategies to be used

Elaboration strategies – when solving a problem, they think of other ways to solve it. They understand new concepts by relating to concepts already known

Control strategies – they set clear goals and monitor their own progress (either on an individual problem or more generally) they develop a feel for what is important to learn.



Getting started



Getting started on P1

The Scheme of Work on the site recommends starting with indices and surds. Another good start would be quadratic functions.

Activity 4

- Fill in the poll for the starting point for P1



Getting started on P1

indices and surds

First of all, don't allow calculators!

Check understanding of

$$64^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad -64^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (-64)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad 64^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad -64^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad (-64)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Given that $0 < x < 1$ put these in order starting with the least

$$x^1 \quad x \quad x^{0.5} \quad x^0 \quad x^2$$



Getting started on P1

Indices and surds

First of all don't allow calculators!

Check working out of

$$(2\sqrt{3})^2 \quad (\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{8})^2 \quad (6 - \sqrt{6})(6 + \sqrt{6})$$

As a challenge ask for a square root of $11 + 6\sqrt{2}$



Getting started on M1

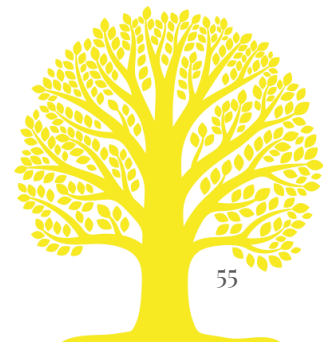
Modelling

Vectors

Mechanics is based on simple models. There are not many marks for modelling as such in the M1 exam, but it's worth spending some time on the modelling cycle.

As an example, use a YouTube video to look at projectile motion – for example a medieval ballista* (or even something similar from *Game of Thrones*)

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgNIPOMOps0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgNIPOMOps0)



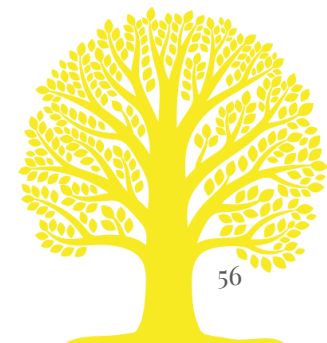
Getting started on M1

Vectors

Students should have had experience of working with position vectors at GCSE.

Key ideas are working with column vectors – addition, subtraction, multiplication by a scalar and modulus.

However, some teachers prefer to work on motion in a straight line under constant acceleration – 1 dimensional kinematics – with associated displacement time and velocity time graphs.



Getting started on S1

Representation of data

Calculations with data

Students should have had experience of working with position vectors at GCSE.

Key ideas are working with column vectors – addition, subtraction, multiplication by a scalar and modulus

However, some teachers prefer to work on motion in a straight line under constant acceleration – 1 dimensional kinematics – with associated displacement time and velocity time graphs.



Getting started on S1

Representation of data

Students should have had experience of working with histograms* and cumulative frequency diagrams at GCSE.

The new statistical diagrams are not difficult – the key task is generally to interpret them.

* They should be familiar with both the area approach and the frequency density approach.



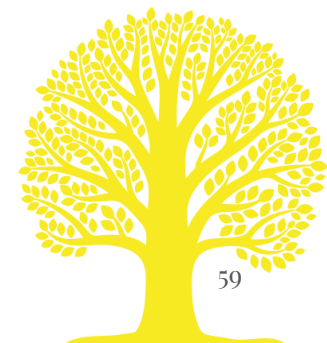
Getting started on S1

Calculations with data

Students should be able to work efficiently and accurately with calculators.

Unless the school has a policy that all students have the same calculator, this is an opportunity for some independent work for students.

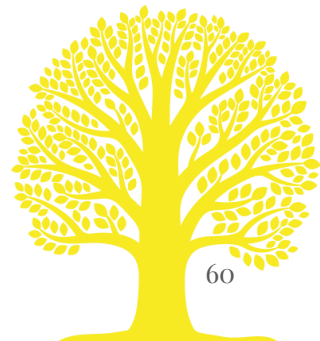
Students should also be able to use a spreadsheet to calculate statistics from distributions by using standard functions or by writing appropriate instructions themselves.



Getting started on D1

The ideas in D1 will tend to be so new that it should generate interest.

Prior knowledge is minimal but it's a good idea to discuss what an algorithm is and also the implications of using a poor one (see for example the GRTT recording example on the Travelling Salesman Problem).



Organisational issues



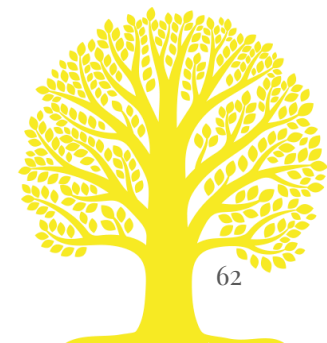
Organisational issues

Guidance for teaching has 60 hours of class contact per unit.

Possible models for delivery:

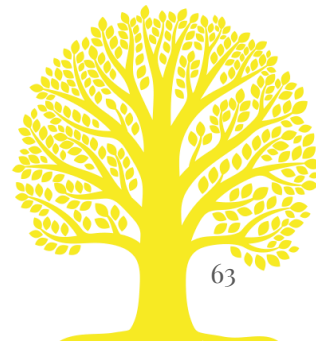
'P1 first' model	P1 (with exam in Jan), P2 and M1 or S1 or D1 (June)
'P1 and applied unit first' model	P1 and M1 or S1 or D1, then P2 – all units to be taken in June
'P1 first' model	Attractive if the students have done really well at International GCSE
'P1 and applied unit first' model	Often used if two teachers are sharing – some minor issues with sequencing

Activity 5 – please complete the poll about organisation.



Supporting transferable skills

- Our transferable skills framework underpins the design of all Pearson Edexcel international qualifications and their supporting resources across IPLS, International GCSE and International A Level.
- Ensures our assessments target the skills students' need for successful progression.
- Increasing our support where these skills **naturally** occur through the teaching, learning and assessment.
- Pearson materials and mapping will support you in identifying and developing the acquisition of these skills in students across the full curriculum.
- <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/International%20GCSE/General/Transferable-Skills-Information-Pack.pdf>



Subject features

Reviewed and updated in light of UK GCSE and GCE changes

Verified as equivalent to UK A level

Many pathways to International A level in mathematics

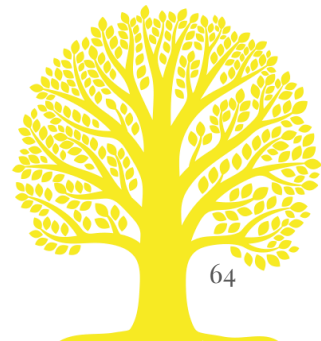
Many pathways to International A level in further mathematics

Transferable skills embedded

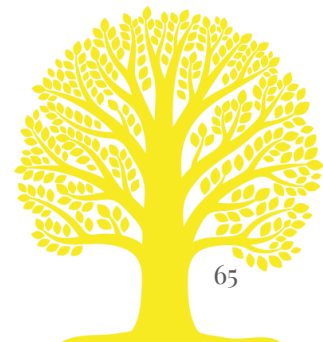
Teacher support books available

Dedicated textbooks are available

**TeachingMaths@
Pearson.com**

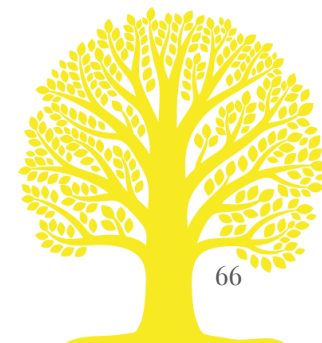
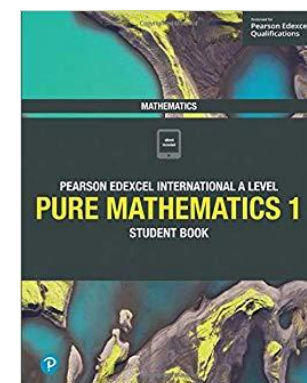
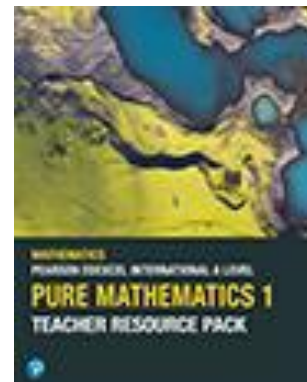


Support overview for International A level in Mathematics



Pearson Publishing

- Chapters are mapped closely to the specification to provide comprehensive coverage
- Learning is embedded with exercises, source materials and exam practice throughout
- Transferable skills, needed for progression into higher education and employment, are signposted allowing students to understand, and engage with, the skills they're gaining
- A fully integrated Progression Map tool allows quick and easy formative assessment of student progress, linked to guidance on how to personalise learning solutions
- Reviewed by a language specialist to ensure the book is written in a clear and accessible style for students whose first language may not be English
- Glossary of key terminology
- Teacher support materials available



Pearson Publishing

1.1 Index laws

■ You can use the laws of **indices** to **simplify** powers of the same **base**.

- $a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$

- $a^m \div a^n = a^{m-n}$

- $(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$

$$(ab)^n = a^n b^n$$

Notation

x^5 This is the **index**, **power** or **exponent**.

This is the **base**.

Example 1

Simplify these **expressions**:

a $x^2 \times x^5$

b $2r^2 \times 3r^3$

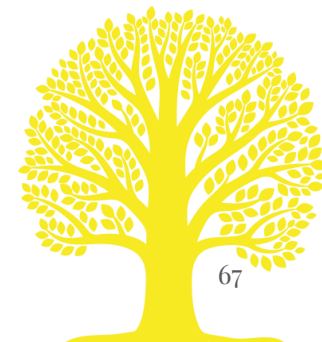
c $\frac{b^7}{b^4}$

d $6x^5 \div 3x^3$

e $(a^3)^2 \times 2a^2$

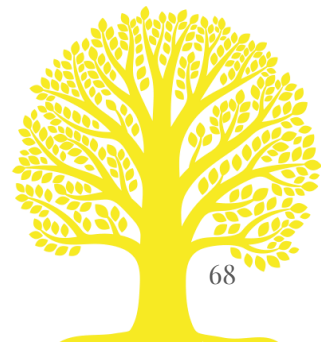
f $(3x^2)^3 \div x^4$

An example from the Pure 1 book

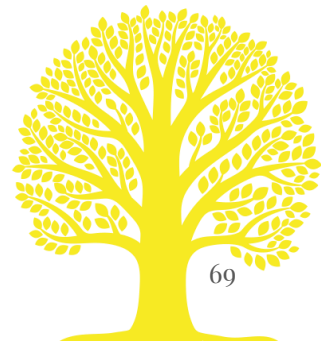


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- A free tool for teachers which helps you make quick homework assignments, topic tests and mock exams
- Questions tagged against unit, topic and assessment objective or simply choose a whole past paper
- Use existing mark schemes for accurate marking
- Use examiner report for insight
- Most recent exam content available sooner
- Use the results to understand where students need more support, informing teaching strategies



Contact your dedicated Subject Advisor

Subject Advisor details

Your subject advisor is **Graham Cumming**

Phone: **+ 44 (0)20 7010 2174**

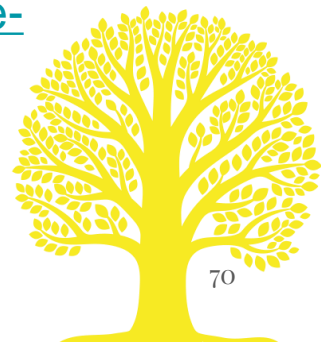
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<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/forms/sign-up-international-online-subject-expert-panels.html> to see what other teachers are thinking and doing.



New Access to Script (ATS) Online Portal

Access to Scripts (ATS) is a free online portal which allows teachers to immediately access electronically marked exam papers

Provides enhanced transparency and

- offers transparent approach to marking process
- provides better understanding of marking before requests for enquiries about results are made
- provides excellent aid for teaching and preparing other cohorts for examinations by helping you to evaluate a student's performance on particular questions in relation to what they have been taught.

Available instantly from results day for all our examination series, for a defined window, you can view and download scripts which have been marked online free of charge from our Self-Service Portal.

For more information on ATS, and the post results windows, visit our post-results pages.



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[1. Grade Boundaries](#)

This page shows the minimum marks needed to achieve a certain grade for all UK and international examinations. Also refer to the Examiner's report which is available for download with other documents.

[2. Examination Results Statistics](#)

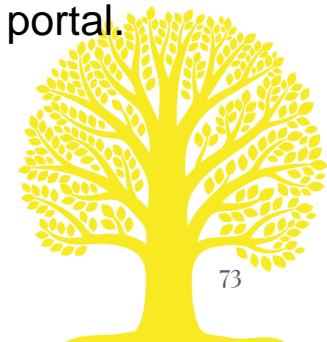
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Any questions?



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