

Use of Mathematics AS Level at Paston

Awarding Body AQA

Do you like maths at GCSE but are not confident to take the traditional A level?
Would maths be helpful to your other A levels?
Would maths be an advantage in your career choice?
If yes, "Use of Maths" AS level may very well be the right choice for you. It is a new option this year introduced to cater for many students who want to continue with maths, but not to the depth and detail of the traditional A level course.
The course concentrates on the practical application of maths to real situations: how to predict the height of the water in Wells harbour at any particular time? How can we model the growth in broadband connections over the last ten years? How can the spread of a disease like bird flu be modelled? How does the temperature of a cup of coffee drop to room temperature? There is considerable use of computer programs such as Excel and graphical calculators to help us in these investigations.

AS Use of Maths

In AS Use of Maths you will study:

Working with Algebraic and Graphical Techniques

- Using calculators and computers.
- Fitting equations to data.
- Interpreting mathematical models.
- Increasing your algebraic skills.

Using and Applying Statistics

- Averages and standard deviation.
- Statistical diagrams – cumulative frequency and histograms.
- Making sense of statistics – connecting the numbers to real life
- Correlation – are different sets of numbers linked? How?

Applying Mathematics

- How to model real life with formulas.
- How to interpret and apply these models.

Assessment

- Three 1½ written exams
- 2 Portfolios of work
- One 1 hour written comprehension written exam

Entry requirements

At least 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C, with at least a grade C in maths.
We recommend a grade B in maths

It may be possible to continue to A2 Use of Maths in September 2009. We are investigating this probability at the moment.