L3 Mathematical Studies Preparation Guide

BURY COLLEGE

Welcome to Level 3 Mathematical Studies (sometimes referred to as Core Maths)!

You've probably been wondering how studying at college will compare to your previous studies so we have put together a quick guide and some activities to help you get ready for starting in September.

Why study Level 3 Mathematical Studies ?

L3 Mathematical Studies is ideal for students who enjoy maths and problem solving, but may not wish to study a full Maths A-level.

It can be studied alongside three A-levels or alongside a full vocational qualification.

The qualification is highly respected by many Universities and where Maths A level is not required for a particular course, many Universities will now reduce their entrance requirement for students who have achieved this qualification.

So the advantage is twofold, not only do you get more UCAS points, you may also potentially have your offer reduced !

L3 Mathematical studies is very relevant to life today, as it focuses on areas of mathematics which you will find useful in many aspects of your personal and working life.

What is Level 3 Mathematical Studies ?

L3 Mathematical studies is a one year course, and is equivalent to an AS level in terms of UCAS points.

You will sit a formal examination consisting of two papers, the first paper being a compulsory paper and the second paper being chosen from three options.

Compulsory Paper 1.
Topics include a detailed understanding of ;

Taxation and National Insurance
Investing and Borrowing
Loans and Mortgages
Estimating
Critical Analysis
Data sampling and representation.

Optional paper 2.
Choice of one of the following;

2A Statistical techniques
Useful for subjects which use sampled data such as Biology and Psychology

2B Critical path and risk analysis
Useful for subjects such as Business, which look at project planning and programming.

2C Graphical Techniques
Useful in many subjects, especially Science and Engineering related subjects.

What are the entrance requirements for the subject ?

Ideally a grade 5 at GCSE Maths is required, although a 4 would be considered, possibly subject to an assessment.

What should I do to prepare for L3 Mathematical Studies ?

As with any Science or Maths subject, there is certain equipment that you will need.

Most important is a scientific calculator – the one you used for GCSE maths will be absolutely fine.

You will also need a pen, pencil, rubber, ruler, protractor.

The maths knowledge required for Level 3 Mathematical Studies is a solid understanding of GCSE topics, in fact it is estimated that L3 Maths is about 60% of what you have already learnt at GCSE, which then you will build upon.

Particular areas of Maths which you should be confident with are;
Percentages and Graphs
Work through these questions to revise.

Percentages
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9sgdxs/revision/1
Graphs
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z9387p3/revision/1