



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

No.	Question	
1	What is the difference between IB Maths and A Level Math?	There are many similar topics between the two programmes. IB Math emphasizes interdisciplinary learning, conceptual understanding and use of technology. In terms of assessment, there are 2 papers in A Level H2 Math, each of 3 hours duration while there are 3 papers in IB HL Math and 2 papers in IB SL Math. IB students are also required to do a Math Exploration which constitutes 20% of the overall assessment.
2	What are the minimum requirement to do HL Math?	Students need to obtain a grade 6 for Advanced Math in Year 4 IP, or a Distinction for O Level Additional Math.
3	Do I need HL Math to study medicine in NUS and NTU?	No. At NUS, only Maths SL is required. But some universities in the UK may expect students to offer HL Maths for Medicine
4	Do I need HL Math to study Economics?	In general, no, but some UK universities require it e.g. London School of Economics.
5	Do I need HL Math to study Engineering?	Yes, definitely.
6	Do I need HL Math to do a Math Extended Essay?	No, though it is preferable that students offer HL Math
7	What is the Math Exploration?	The Maths Exploration is the Internal Assessment component of the course and is compulsory for both HL and SL students. It is a 12-15 page report based on an area of mathematics of the student's own interest. It constitutes 20% of the overall grading.
8	What graphic calculator will I be using?	We use the TI-Nspire CX GDC. Arrangements will be made for the students to purchase a set at the start of the course.

9	How is HL Math taught in class?	Students are taught in a classroom setting unlike the lecture-style setting in JCs. Class sizes typically do not exceed 26 students. Time will be allocated for mathematical exploration and hands-on use of technology. There is group work and the teacher facilitates the lessons. Students are expected to contribute actively to class discussions.
10	Will O-level students be disadvantage compared to students who did the IP?	Students from both the O-level and IP track have performed equally well in the IB exams.
11	What are the recommended textbooks?	<p>Students need not purchase any textbook – we have our In-house Math HL and SL Guidebook for every student. However, students are encouraged to use readily available textbooks in the market as reference.</p> <p>Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL/SL Oxford University Press Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL/SL Haese & Haese Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches HL/SL Pearson</p>
12	Is HL Math more difficult than H2 Math in A level?	Both are different and expectations are different. For example, there is the Internal Assessment component in both HL and SL Math whereas A level Math consists only of 2 written papers, 3 hrs each. Generally, students may find HL Math more challenging than H2 Math but the rigour of H2 Math will be more challenging than SL Math.
13	Should I offer HL or SL Math?	HL Mathematics is designed for students with a high aptitude for analytical thinking in mathematics. Students taking HL Mathematics should also be passionate in Mathematics, and can possibly see themselves as studying courses such as engineering, computing and mathematics in university – these courses typically require students to have a good foundation in an advanced mathematics course done at pre-university level.

14	How does taking HL or SL Mathematics affect my options in university courses?	Offering HL Mathematics allows a student more options in selecting university courses. <i>Not all</i> courses, however, require HL Mathematics and in fact, a fairly large number of popular university courses require only SL Mathematics as a pre-requisite (examples: Law, Medicine, most courses in Social Sciences, Business courses in general). Take note that there are variations across universities.
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