



Focus of the Month

September 2016

Preparing for the new A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics specifications

This month we are focusing on the events, resources and professional development that the FMSP offers to schools to support preparation for first teaching of the new A level specifications for Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

At the start of September Ofqual will feed back to the awarding organisations on their draft specifications and sample assessment materials. They will agree a timetable for revisions and resubmission where necessary.

Information and resources

There is a dedicated [2017 section](#) of the FMSP website with detailed information and resources relating to the changes. Here you will find links to:

- links to all four draft specifications for Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- a [guide to choosing a new specification](#), which outline key things to consider
- an [implementation timeline](#) outlining the key milestones in the process of preparing for teaching the new A levels in 2017
- Ofqual's [A Level Mathematics Working Group Report](#) on problem-solving, modelling and large data sets
- a document summarising the [changes to AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics](#) content
- a document [comparing the new applied maths content 2017 with current modules](#)
- a comparison the draft structures of [AS/A level Further Mathematics from 2017](#)

The FMSP are also preparing schemes of work for AS/A level Further Mathematics as part of the support for students taking Further Mathematics. These schemes of work will link to the FMSP's programme of [Live Interactive Lectures \(LIL\)](#) and make use of [Integral](#) online teaching resources. A [draft scheme of work for MEI AS Further Pure](#) is available as a sample.

Professional Development and Support

The FMSP has planned a range of events to support teachers preparing for and teaching the new linear specifications.

Preparing to teach the linear A levels course

This autumn there are over 40 **free, one-day courses** on planning and preparing for the new A levels. These days will look at:

- the big ideas and themes that run through the new specifications such as problem solving and use of technology
- how to plan a scheme of work for a linear A Level, including consideration of dependencies and prior knowledge
- ways to teach Further Mathematics alongside the A Level Mathematics
- conducting a departmental skills audit and deciding on CPD priorities
- finding the best resources and support for teaching the new specifications

Details of the dates and venues of these event are on the [2017 CPD page](#). We advise all Heads of Department or Key Stage 5 Coordinator to attend one of these courses.

The FMSP [Live Online Professional Development programme](#) offers courses to address the subject knowledge needs of your department.

The FMSP also offers a range of extended professional development courses which are designed to develop subject knowledge and classroom practice for teaching [Advanced Mathematics](#), [Further Mathematics](#), [Mechanics](#) and [Statistics](#). All of these extended courses are being reviewed to provide support for teaching the linear A levels.

Details of all events taking place in your area can be found on the relevant [regional page](#) together with the contact details of your local FMSP Area Coordinator.

Teacher Networks

The FMSP will be organising information/discussion workshops at teacher network meetings throughout the coming year. These are an ideal opportunity to share your ideas and experiences, gain useful insight form the experiences of colleagues in other institutions and discuss issues with FMSP staff. Check the [teacher network page](#) for details of over 50 FMSP networks to see which are near you.

Other support

MEI is planning a programme of [CPD courses](#). Each course is appropriate for teaching any of the new AS/A level Mathematics specifications.