



Project Maths is being introduced to 1st and 5th Year Maths Students from September. For more details see www.ncca.ie

NCCA Project Maths Frequently Asked Questions

How many Strands are there?

There are five Strands in the draft syllabuses at all levels: 1 Statistics and Probability, 2 Geometry and Trigonometry, 3 Number, 4 Algebra, and 5 Functions.

When will the new strands be introduced?

Strand 1 and 2 were introduced in September 2008 to the initial 24 schools and these have been reviewed. Strands 3 and 4 were introduced for the first time in these schools in September 2009, with Strand 5 being introduced in September 2010. Adjustments are being made to the syllabus strands before their introduction in all schools on a similarly phased basis: Strands 1 and 2 in September 2010, Strands 3 and 4 in September 2011 and Strand 5 in 2012.

Will there be changes to the existing Junior Certificate syllabus levels?

Yes, there will no longer be a Foundation level syllabus. There will be Ordinary level and Higher level syllabuses only. However, a Foundation level examination will be offered at Junior Certificate for as long as is necessary to meet the needs of candidates for whom an Ordinary level examination is not appropriate.

Will there be changes to the existing Leaving Certificate syllabus levels?

No. There will continue to be three syllabus levels at Leaving Certificate, and three corresponding examination levels, Foundation, Ordinary Level and Higher Level.

What is the most significant change in the syllabuses?

There is an increase in the amount of statistics and probability to be studied at both Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate. At each level there is increased emphasis on student understanding of the concepts, as well as on the use of appropriate contexts and applications. More active methodologies will be used to promote better student engagement in mathematics classes and to provide them with better insights into mathematics and its applications.

Where can I find out more about the changes to the syllabus?

There are draft syllabus documents for [Strands 1 - 4](#) on this website. It is expected that draft a syllabus documents for Strand 5 will be available on this website before September 2010.

Is there any other documentation available on the changes being introduced?

There is a [Geometry appendix \(PDF,312kb\)](#) which contains the detail underpinning the new geometry course in Strand2. Student materials have been developed for Strand 1 and Strand 2 and these are available for download in pdf: [link to student materials](#)

Additional information on Project Maths is also available here [project maths – the next stage](#)

As a parent can I get some straightforward information about Project Maths?

The NCCA has published a short brochure and this is available for download here: [Project Maths - Information for schools](#) This brochure gives an overall perspective on Project Maths.

The Project Maths Development Team also have a range of documentation, including teaching and learning plans and links to useful online resources, on their website: www.projectmaths.ie

Will the examination questions be different?

In tandem with the changes in the syllabus and the emphasis on understanding, context and applications, the style and format of the examination papers will be changed on a phased basis.

Will teachers be given support?

All maths teachers in the 24 initial schools are being supported by a full-time team, through seminars and workshops, school visits and online resources for teaching and learning. From September 2009, teachers in all other schools have been supported by an expanded full-time team and will also have a series of workshops and seminars over a four year period. Additional support will also be provided and the range of online resources will be extended, based on the developments and refinements in the initial 24 schools.

Are new Mathematical tables (log books) being developed?

A new 'Tables and Formulas' booklet has been prepared by the State Examinations Commission, and this has been introduced for the Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations from June 2010. The SEC will contact schools with information on the new tables and they can be purchased at most schoolbook outlets.