



# Curriculum

Developing students' understanding  
and enjoyment of mathematics

# Curriculum



MEI believes the mathematics curriculum should develop students' understanding and enjoyment of mathematics, and also help them to see how mathematics and statistics are used across the curriculum and throughout industry, business and commerce.

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The changing nature of society and work mean that mathematical skills are becoming increasingly important. A mathematically educated workforce is vital for economic prosperity. Furthermore, a sound understanding of basic mathematics and statistics is essential for personal well-being in today's society; fear and insecurity about mathematics damages people's life chances. An appropriate mathematics curriculum can empower students, equipping them with the skills they need to apply mathematical and statistical techniques to interpret and analyse information and draw valid conclusions.

In a coherent curriculum, teaching and learning resources and professional development for teachers work with qualification specifications and assessment to provide an effective learning experience for students. MEI's work involves all of these elements, with each of them designed in line with our principles, outlined above.

MEI pioneers innovative mathematics qualifications and supports them with teaching and learning resources and professional development courses. We also provide on-going support for teachers of our qualifications through a network of local branches and by giving information and advice directly to teachers upon request.

We design teaching resources, including text books and extensive online resources. Some of these are designed for our own specifications; others are for other specifications and some are generic. Our materials and professional development are used to support the

Current MEI qualifications include the MEI A level, AS Statistics and the Foundations of Advanced Mathematics FSMQ, all developed in partnership with the OCR awarding body.



mathematics curriculum in thousands of schools and colleges, regardless of which examination specifications they follow.

## How you can be involved

One of the original aims in designing the MEI AS/A level specification was to increase the number of students taking mathematics beyond GCSE by making it accessible, interesting and relevant. Considerable thought and effort, including consultation with classroom teachers, has gone into ensuring that there is a logical development of mathematical understanding as students progress through the strands.

## Development groups

Ideas and feedback from teachers play an important role in MEI's curriculum development work. MEI uses development groups involving practising teachers to give input into curriculum design and to help evolve teaching ideas and resources.

## National consultations

MEI responds to national consultations which affect mathematics education, to help influence government policy and promote a positive national climate for teaching and learning mathematics. Feedback from teachers is vital in enabling us to do this effectively, and MEI's membership scheme provides us with a vehicle to request this input.

## Pilot projects

We undertake innovative pilot projects to develop new ideas that can improve mathematics education. The highly successful *Further Mathematics Support Programme* was developed from an MEI pilot project. Current pilot projects include *Realistic Mathematics Education* (RME) and *Integrating Mathematical Problem Solving* (IMPS). Teachers are invited to trial materials and to provide feedback to inform development.

MEI Members and Associates are given the opportunity to contribute to MEI's work.



**MEI remains a beacon of opportunity for teachers to actually teach their subject.**



*Chris Olley, Director,  
PGCE Mathematics,  
King's College London*

Visit [mei.org.uk/curriculum](http://mei.org.uk/curriculum) for more information about MEI's qualifications, curriculum projects and development groups.

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MEI Individual Members receive 5% discount for specified CPD events and the MEI Conference.

Visit [mei.org.uk/membership](http://mei.org.uk/membership) to find out about the benefits of becoming an Individual Member, Educational Associate or Corporate Associate of MEI.

## About MEI

Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI) is a membership organisation and a charity. Since the 1960s, MEI has worked to support mathematics teaching and learning. Any income generated through MEI's work is used to support mathematics education.

MEI emphasises understanding and enjoyment of mathematics and also highlights the importance of mathematics in industry and commerce.

MEI pioneers the development of innovative teaching and learning resources, including extensive online materials to support all major examination syllabuses.

MEI offers teachers of all GCSE and A level specifications a range of continuing professional development (CPD) courses, provides specialist tuition for students and works with industry to enhance mathematical skills in the workplace.

There is a network of MEI branches around the country, offering local support for teachers.

MEI's popular A level specification is administered by OCR, with MEI taking responsibility for the curriculum, and providing course textbooks published by Hodder Education.

MEI manages the government-funded Further Mathematics Support Programme, providing advice and support for teachers of AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics in schools and colleges throughout England.

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### MEI

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National Centre  
for Excellence in the  
Teaching of Mathematics

