

NEW O-LEVEL MATHEMATICS SYLLABUS

How does the new O-Level Mathematics syllabus compare with the previous syllabus?

By EPH Editorial Team

The Ministry of Education usually reviews subject syllabuses once every few years to refresh and maintain content relevance. A new O-Level Mathematics syllabus will be implemented for the examination this year. Let us look at the significant changes between the old and new syllabuses below.

Changes to Content

The good news is, there are no major changes to content. Of the changes, students should take note of the following:

- Students now learn more about subsets in addition to just proper subsets.
- The new syllabus includes simple concepts in collecting, classifying, and tabulating data in Statistics.
- Perpendicular bisectors of line segments and angle bisectors are now covered in Secondary 3/4 rather than in Secondary 1.
- Scale drawings are now covered in Secondary 3/4 rather than in Secondary 2.

Changes to Assessment

The assessment scheme has also been revised. The following tables reflect the breakdown of the changes to the assessment scheme for both Paper 1 and Paper 2 respectively.

Paper 1

	DURATION	QUESTIONS	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Old	2 hours	About 25 short-answer questions	80	50%
New	2 hours 15 minutes	About 26 short-answer questions	90	50%

Paper 2

	DURATION	QUESTIONS	MARKS	WEIGHTING
Old	2 hours 30 minutes	10 to 11 questions of varying marks and lengths, with the last question specifically on applying mathematics to a real-world scenario	100	50%
New	2 hours 15 minutes	9 to 10 questions of varying marks and lengths, with the last question specifically on applying mathematics to a real-world scenario	90	50%

It is worth noting that even though the marks have changed, each paper still accounts for 50% of the total weightage. Thus, students will still need to pay equal attention to both Paper 1 and Paper 2 to score well in the final examination.

To boost learning efficacy, students can refer to **Secondary 3/4 Express (G3) Topical Maths** (\$15.90) by Educational Publishing House, which has been revised according to the latest syllabus to help students adapt to the syllabus changes and, in turn, the examination rigour that comes with it.

