

VCE English and Mathematics study designs: the summary

English and EAL: Units 1 and 2 from 2023, Units 3 and 4 from 2024 (version 1.4, October 2024)

Unit	Area of Study 1	Area of Study 2
1	Reading and exploring texts	Crafting texts
2	Reading and exploring texts	Exploring argument
3	Reading and responding to texts	Creating texts (task and weighting revised in v1.4)
4	Reading and responding to texts	Analysing argument

Component	Weighting	Conditions
Unit 3 School-assessed Coursework	25%	Analytical response to a text; Creating texts tasks under the v1.4 task conditions
Unit 4 School-assessed Coursework	25%	Analytical response to a text; analysis of argument and language with a point of view
End-of-year examination	50%	3 hours; assessment criteria and expected qualities and a sample answer book published (December 2023)

Mathematics 2023 to 2027: areas of study in Units 3 and 4

Study	Areas of study
Foundation Mathematics	Algebra, number and structure; Data analysis, probability and statistics; Discrete mathematics; Space and measurement
General Mathematics	Data analysis, probability and statistics (data analysis; recursion and financial modelling); Discrete mathematics (matrices; networks and decision mathematics)
Mathematical Methods	Functions, relations and graphs; Algebra, number and structure; Calculus; Data analysis, probability and statistics
Specialist Mathematics	Discrete mathematics (logic and proof); Functions, relations and graphs; Algebra, number and structure; Calculus; Space and measurement; Data analysis, probability and statistics

Weightings and examinations

Study	Unit 3 SACs	Unit 4 SACs	Examination 1	Examination 2
Foundation Mathematics	40%	20%	one exam, 40%, 2 hours, technology	
General Mathematics	24%	16%	30%, 1.5 h, multiple choice, technology	30%, 1.5 h, written response, technology
Mathematical Methods	20%	20%	20%, 1 hour, short answer, TECHNOLOGY-FREE	40%, 2 hours, multiple choice + extended, technology
Specialist Mathematics	20%	20%	20%, 1 hour, short answer, TECHNOLOGY-FREE	40%, 2 hours, multiple choice + extended, technology

Examination 1 for Methods and Specialist is technology-free; every other VCE mathematics examination assumes VCAA-approved technology.

Formula sheets for Methods and Specialist Examinations 1 and 2 (August 2024) are given in the exam. From sciencewithshobha.com/blog/vce-english-and-mathematics-study-designs-explained-english-and-eal-methods-specialist-general-and-foundation-are-as-of-study-sac-weightings-the-exams-and-the-technology-rules/

The maths hierarchy, the exam map, and the Year 10 choice

VTAC 2025: what a study score is worth in each maths study

Study	Study score 25	30	35	40	45	50
Specialist Mathematics	36	43	48	51	54	55
Mathematical Methods	28	35	41	46	49	51
General Mathematics	23	28	33	38	44	50
Foundation Mathematics	16	20	26	32	40	50

Each maths study is scaled against the studies above and below it as well as against everything else, and the higher result is used. A 30 in Methods (35) equals a 37 in General; a 25 in Methods (28) equals a 30 in General.

The exam map for a Year 12 with English, Methods and two sciences

Paper	Length	Technology	Share of that study	What to practise
English examination	3 hours	none	50%	two text responses and an analysis of argument, timed, to the assessment criteria
Methods Examination 1	1 hour	none	20%	by-hand algebra and calculus, short answer, under time
Methods Examination 2	2 hours	CAS	40%	multiple choice and extended modelling questions with the calculator
Chemistry / Biology / Psychology examination	2.5 hours	data book (Chemistry)	50%	past papers marked to the examination report; key science skills
Physics examination	2.5 hours	formula sheet	50%	as above; Unit 3 SACs are 30% in Physics

Year 10 maths-choice checklist

- [] Which maths study will this child rank in the top half of? That is the study (Methods for a child who will sit in its top half).
- [] Does the intended university course require Methods or Specialist? Check the prerequisite list before deciding.
- [] Can the child do algebra and calculus by hand under time? Examination 1 in Methods and Specialist is a fifth of the study with no calculator.
- [] Is there a plan for the CAS calculator from Term 1 of Unit 3, not Term 3?
- [] Which English study (English, EAL, English Language, Literature) will the child rank highest in? One is in every ATAR.

Study-year planner (fill in the SAC dates from the school's calendar)

Study	Unit 3 SAC dates	Unit 4 SAC dates	Exam date	Past papers by Term 3