



Mathematical Association of New South Wales Inc.

MANSW - Promoting Quality Mathematics Education for All

“Should I do Mathematics (2 Unit) or Mathematics General in Years 11 and 12?”

The case for Mathematics 2 Unit

Prior learning and background knowledge, skills and understanding	
Students who have done the mathematics from 5.2 and 5.3 in Years 9 and 10 will have adequate background knowledge for Mathematics 2 Unit.	BUT... If you did not do 5.3 Mathematics in Years 9 and 10 you will need to learn several new concepts, especially at the start of Year 11.
Mathematical content of the course	
There will be some revision of prior learning, but most of the content will be new to you. You will learn calculus, which prepares students more effectively for success in university STEM* courses such as Engineering and Physics.	BUT... The topic of Statistics is not covered or revised in this course.
Time and effort required	
With an investment of time and effort students will be very familiar with most of the questions in the HSC and could achieve high results.	BUT... You might feel that your teacher moves quickly through topics. Some students need to spend more time on mathematics than their other subjects.
HSC Examination	
You have 180 minutes to attempt questions to the value of 100 marks. The literacy demands are often low. Most of your responses will be written in mathematical text and graphs but you also need to be able to explain your thinking and justify your answers.	BUT... The HSC Examination could include almost anything you learnt in previous years (except Statistics).
Contribution to ATAR	
The top Mathematics 2 Unit student can score 100 ATAR contribution points towards their total out of 500 which determines their ATAR. The top Mathematics General student is awarded approximately 91 ATAR points.	BUT... Like every HSC course, your ATAR contribution for Mathematics 2 Unit is related to how you compare to all the students in NSW doing the course.
ATAR Bonus Points	
All universities have a bonus ATAR point system. You could earn bonus ATAR points for your result in Mathematics 2 Unit.	BUT... In most universities, these apply to students who achieve a result in one of the highest bands.
Entering university and succeeding in a STEM* degree	
You have a much greater chance of succeeding if you complete Mathematics 2 Unit than if you do no mathematics or Mathematics General. See note on page 1 about Sydney University's prerequisite.	BUT... If you also do Mathematics Extension 1 (and possibly Mathematics Extension 2) you may be better prepared for your university course.

* Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics

The information presented in this document reflects the considered views of the Mathematical Association of NSW (MANSW) and is based on available evidence and research findings. MANSW accepts no responsibility for the choices made by students based on the information provided in this document. Readers should investigate all information around this subject before choosing a mathematics course for Years 11 and 12.

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