

Name of course: GCSE Statistics
Examination board: EdExcel
Faculty Leader: Miss E Raine
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How the course is assessed:

The course is assessed solely through examination with two examinations at the end of year 11, both weighted at 50%. Each examination last 1 hour and 30 minutes, and is a combination of short, medium and extended response questions.

Outline of course:

Every day we are faced with stacks of facts and figures. It is nearly impossible to consider each fact individually, so we use Statistics to deal with complex and large groups of data. Statistics are numbers that describe, or summarise, groups of other numbers. We live in the information age where we understand a great deal about the world around us. Much of this information was determined mathematically by using statistics. When used correctly, Statistics helps us to identify trends in the past and can be useful in predicting what may happen in the future. You will have already used statistics in your lessons, particularly in mathematics.

For example:

- Collecting data: making a survey or questionnaire about what eye colour, height or favourite food from your classmates. You then may have to group this data into boys versus girls or age. Calculating
- averages: working out the mean, mode and median.
- Representing data: drawing pie charts, bar charts, line graphs, and frequency polygons.
- Probability: working out the chances that you will pick a classmate who likes the same food as you.

You will find that the statistical process of asking a question, getting appropriate data, analysing and representing the data and then drawing conclusions is very similar to the process of a scientific investigation. Science uses a lot of statistics in drawing conclusions. You will also find statistics used in different ways in geography, history, citizenship, psychology, economics, business studies and many other school subjects.

Potential career pathways that could lead on from this course:

Choosing GCSE Statistics leads really well onto the following qualifications:

- GCE AS or A Level Mathematics and GCE AS or A Level Further Mathematics
- Level 3 qualifications, such as GCE in Biology, Economics, Geography, Psychology and Sociology
- Vocational qualifications such as a BTEC in Business
- Studying these subjects can lead to careers in the following:
- Economics Business Analysis Accountancy
- Sciences (biology, chemistry and physics) and Psychology
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Teaching/lecturing

