



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

## The case for Mathematics General

<b>Prior learning and background knowledge, skills and understanding</b>	
If there are things you did in Years 7 to 10 that were confusing at the time you will have a chance to consolidate your learning.	BUT... You will revise many things that you may already know.
<b>Mathematical content of the course</b>	
The syllabus includes Focus Studies and other topics in which the mathematics is presented in real-life contexts. You will study Statistics, which is something you might need when you get to university. The syllabus includes the compulsory use of spreadsheets and other technology.	BUT... The content of Mathematics General will not prepare you for many of the STEM* degrees at university.
<b>Time and effort required</b>	
Capable students will find that they do not need to invest a huge amount of time into homework and studying.	BUT... There are still many different topics and concepts to be covered.
<b>Your fellow students</b>	
You will not be competing against students from other mathematics courses or students who have accelerated their study of mathematics.	BUT... This course is designed for students who require more time to consolidate Mathematics 7 to 10.
<b>HSC Examination</b>	
You will be given a three-page Formulae and Data Booklet, reducing the need to memorise certain things.	BUT... The literacy demands are very high. Some of your responses will be written in mathematical text including diagrams but you also need to be able to explain your thinking and justify your answers.
<b>Contribution to ATAR</b>	
Students in the top 10% of the 30 000-plus Mathematics General candidates receive a reasonably high contribution towards the score out of 500 that determines their ATAR. It is possible, although somewhat atypical, for a Mathematics General student to score an ATAR well above 90.	BUT... The top Mathematics General student usually receives approximately 91 contribution points whereas the top 2 Unit student can score 100. If you do not finish in the top 10% of Mathematics General the ATAR contribution is quite low compared to other subjects.
<b>ATAR Bonus Points</b>	
	You are unlikely to receive ATAR bonus points for Mathematics General.
<b>Entering university and succeeding in a STEM* degree</b>	
Some university degrees do not have mathematical requirements of any sort. See note on page 1 about Sydney University's prerequisite.	BUT... If you choose a STEM degree you may be required to do a bridging course before you start first year or do a year of Foundation Studies.

\* Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics