

Formulae for GCSE – Higher tier

Percentages	
Compound interest / Growth and Decay	$\left(1 \pm \frac{\%}{100}\right)^n \times \text{original}$
Original amount (reverse percentage)	$\frac{\text{new amount}}{\left(1 \pm \frac{\%}{100}\right)}$
Percentage change (percentage increase or decrease)	$\frac{\text{difference}}{\text{original}} \times 100$
Percentage score	$\frac{\text{score}}{\text{total available}} \times 100$

Angles in Polygons	
Sum of interior angles of a polygon	$180(n-2)$
Relationship between interior and exterior angles of a polygon	$\text{interior} + \text{exterior} = 180^\circ$
Exterior angle of a polygon	$\frac{360^\circ}{n}$
Number of sides of a polygon	$\frac{360^\circ}{\text{exterior angle}}$

Pythagoras and Trigonometry	
Pythagoras' theorem: find the hypotenuse	$c = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$
Pythagoras' theorem: find a non-hypotenuse	$a = \sqrt{c^2 - b^2}$
Trigonometry: Mnemonic to help choose the correct ratio	S O H C A H T O A
Trigonometry: Sine ratio	$\text{Sin } \theta = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}} \quad \theta = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\text{opp}}{\text{hyp}}\right)$
Trigonometry: Cosine ratio	$\text{Cos } \theta = \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}} \quad \theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}}\right)$
Trigonometry: Tangent ratio	$\text{Tan } \theta = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}} \quad \theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}\right)$
Cosine rule: find a side	$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \text{Cos}A$
Cosine rule: find an angle	$\text{Cos}A = \frac{b^2 + c^2 - a^2}{2bc}$
Sine rule: find a side	$\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$
Sine rule: find an angle	$\frac{\sin A}{a} = \frac{\sin B}{b} = \frac{\sin C}{c}$
Area of a triangle (trigonometry)	$A = \frac{1}{2}ab \text{Sin}C$

Statistics	
The angle for 1 person or thing	$\frac{360^\circ}{\sum \text{frequency}}$
Position of the median value	Odd $\frac{n+1}{2}$ Even $\frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2} + 1$
Frequency density (histogram)	$\frac{\text{frequency}}{\text{class width}}$
Interquartile range	$\text{upper quartile} - \text{lower quartile}$ $UQ - LQ$

Compound Measures	
Speed	$\frac{\text{distance}}{\text{time}}$ 
Pressure	$\frac{\text{force}}{\text{area}}$ 
Density	$\frac{\text{mass}}{\text{volume}}$ 

Rules of Indices	
Multiplying	$a^m \times a^n = a^{m+n}$
Dividing	$\frac{a^m}{a^n} = a^{m-n}$
Raising to another power	$(a^m)^n = a^{mn}$
Anything to the power of zero	$n^0 = 1$
Negative index	$a^{-m} = \frac{1}{a^m}$
Unit fractional index	$a^{\frac{1}{n}} = \sqrt[n]{a}$
Any fractional index	$a^{\frac{m}{n}} = (\sqrt[n]{a})^m$

Sequences	
Nth term: Linear (arithmetic) sequence	$U_n = dn + (a-d)$ $a = \text{first term}$ $d = \text{difference}$
Nth term: Geometric sequence	$U_n = ar^{n-1}$ $a = \text{first term}$ $r = \text{common ratio}$

Unit Conversion	
Converting between lengths: cm and m	
Converting between areas: cm ² and m ²	
Converting between volumes: cm ³ and m ³	

Equations and Graphs	
Equation of a straight line	$y = mx + c$
Gradient	$\frac{\text{diff. in } y}{\text{diff. in } x}$
Midpoint of a line (between 2 points)	$\left(\frac{x_1+x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1+y_2}{2} \right)$
Equation of a circle	$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$
Quadratic formula	$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{2a}$

How to learn the formulae

You need to know all of these formulae for your maths exams. To learn them effectively try these ideas:

- Look, Cover, Write, Check, Correct
 - Look at the formulae then cover it
 - Try to say or write the formulae
 - Check to see if you were tight
 - Correct those you get wrong
- Get someone else to test you
- Flashcards
 - Write the name on one side and the formula on the other
 - Go through the cards looking at one side and trying to remember the other

Electronic flashcards of the formulae are at:

mathsduck.co.uk/formulae

Remember:

- You will learn the formulae best by testing yourself
- Little and often is better than fewer longer sessions

Area and Volume	
Area of a square/rectangle	$A = bh$
Area of a triangle	$A = \frac{bh}{2}$
Area of a parallelogram	$A = bh$
Area of a trapezium	$A = \frac{1}{2}(a+b)h$
Circumference of a circle	$C = \pi D$ or $C = 2\pi r$
Area of a circle	$Area = \pi r^2$
Surface area of a cylinder	$2\pi r^2 + \pi dh$
Surface area of a sphere	$4\pi r^2$
Surface area of a cone	$\pi r^2 + \pi rl$
Surface area of a frustum	$\pi r^2 + \pi R^2 + \pi(R+r)l$
Volume of a cube/cuboid	$V = bhl$
Volume of a triangular prism	$V = \frac{bh}{2}l$
Volume of a cylinder	$V = \pi r^2 h$
Volume of a pyramid	$V = \frac{1}{3}(\text{base area} \times \text{height})$
Volume of a cone	$V = \frac{1}{3}(\pi r^2 h)$
Volume of a sphere	$V = \frac{4}{3}(\pi r^3)$
Arc length	$\frac{\theta}{360} \times \pi d$
Sector area	$\frac{\theta}{360} \times \pi r^2$
Area of a segment	<i>area of sector - area of triangle</i>
Enlarged perimeter	<i>original perimeter</i> \times <i>S.F.</i>
Enlarged area	<i>original area</i> \times $(S.F.)^2$
Enlarged volume	<i>original volume</i> \times $(S.F.)^3$