

Why study 2 Maths at Year 11 to do Methods at Year 12?

1. **Recommended by the VCAA** (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) the people in charge of the VCE Maths curriculum.

In particular, students intending to study both Mathematical Methods (CAS) Units 3 and 4 and Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4 should, in all but the most exceptional cases, prepare by studying both Mathematical Methods (CAS) Units 1 and 2 and General Mathematics Units 1 and 2. Although it is possible to prepare for Mathematical Methods (CAS) Units 3 and 4 by studying only Mathematical Methods (CAS) Units 1 and 2, a much firmer basis is obtained by also studying General Mathematics Units 1 and 2.

Taken from: VCE Mathematics study design.

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/studies/mathematics/mathstd.pdf>

2. **Stronger mathematical background when competing against other students studying Methods in Year 12:**

Yr 12 Methods students who do only Methods 1&2 are the lowest 43% of students in terms of Mathematical background.

Combinations of Maths subjects taken by Methods3&4 students in 2010	Number of Year 11 Maths subjects	Number of Yr 12 Maths subjects	Total No. of VCE Maths studies (Mathematical background)	% of Methods students in 2010
Specialist/Methods3&4/Further student	2	3	5	6%
Specialist / Methods3&4Student	2	2	4	22%
Methods3&4/Further Student	2	2	4	16%
Methods3&4 Student (did General in Yr 11)	2	1	3	13%
Methods3&4 Student	1	1	2	43%

Data from VCAA Data analysis unit

The Methods study score is the result of **all students** being placed into **rank order** based on their overall results regardless of their mathematical background. With less of a mathematical background students are at a disadvantage before even beginning the course.