



# THE MATHEMATICS DECISION!

While it is true that pure Mathematics opens many more doors for study than Mathematical Literacy does, there are other factors to consider before making your decision.



- What career area are you likely to pursue?
- What are you likely to study after school?

- What is your ability in pure Mathematics? Are you a high achiever, just coping or struggling?
- Do you enjoy Mathematics?

If you have a general idea of what you will be studying after school, you need to consider whether tertiary entrance requirements include Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy.

If Mathematics is relatively easy for you (achieving 59%+) then continue with it. If you are struggling with Mathematics, consider why? Are you able to receive additional support? Many pure Mathematics students' needs to take extra lessons to pass or achieve decent results. If you enjoy Mathematics and are committed to focus on improving your performance with the necessary support, continue with pure Mathematics. If not, rather take Mathematical Literacy.



**THERE ARE 3 FORMS OF MATHS WHICH YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM.**



*(DEPENDENT ON WHAT YOUR SCHOOL OFFERS OF COURSE!)*

**THEY ARE:**

## **PURE MATHEMATICS**

Pure Maths is a subject that deals with theories and concepts, and teaches a level of problem-solving that is not necessarily encountered in everyday life. It is definitely more difficult, but it helps us find a deeper understanding of the world around us. Many important applications have been as a result of advances in pure mathematics.

**ALL TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS ARE OPEN TO THOSE WHO TAKE PURE MATHEMATICS AS A SUBJECT. MATHEMATICS IS ALSO GENERALLY A COMPULSORY REQUIREMENT FOR PROGRAMMES IN ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, COMMERCE, LAW AND MANAGEMENT, AND SCIENCE (MEDICINE, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, IT) WHERE A GOOD ARITHMETIC UNDERSTANDING IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE COURSE CONTENT.**

## MATHEMATICAL LITERACY

Mathematical Literacy is a more everyday kind of maths which helps us to deal with daily problems we may encounter such as drawing up a budget, calculating our travel costs, etc. It is easier to pass and can push up your APS (admission point system) score, but you can be automatically excluded from tertiary programmes that require pure Mathematics.

### THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS AVAILABLE SUCH AS:

- HUMANITIES / ARTS (MOST);
- MILITARY SCIENCE (SOME);
- EDUCATION (ALL);
- COMMERCE (SOME);
- THEOLOGY (ALL);
- LAW (SOME);
- AGRISCIENCES (SOME);
- HEALTH SCIENCES (SOME)

## TECHNICAL MATHEMATICS

Technical mathematics is pure mathematics but in a more practical and applied way. You would learn how to apply mathematical methods to real-life problems. If you know without a doubt that you wish to pursue a technical or trade career, then Technical Mathematics is for you. There is also a demand for more technical skills in South Africa.

### TECHNICAL OR TRADE CAREERS SUCH AS:

- ELECTRICIAN,
- FITTER,
- TURNER,
- PLUMBER.

**TECHNICAL MATHEMATICS AND A TECHNICAL MATRIC QUALIFY YOU FOR ENTRANCE AT A NUMBER (NOT ALL) OF SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES.**

## A Last Note!



- It is always easier to drop Mathematics to Mathematical Literacy than the other way around.
- If you decide to take Mathematics, and it poses a significant challenge for you in Grade 10, perhaps only then consider dropping to Mathematical Literacy.
- Should you discover post school that you need to have Pure Maths as a subject for entry into your studies, you can always complete a bridging course.

**#careercentre**  
**#makinggoodsubjectchoicedecisions**



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