

## Preparation for Maths GCSE Trial Specification

The Department for Education is inviting you to take part in an exciting set of trials in the 2024/25 academic year. The trials will engage around 20,000 learners across England and aim to generate new, high-quality evidence on what works in adult numeracy.

By taking part you will be randomly allocated to a treatment (delivering something new) or control (business as usual) group. If you are in the treatment group, it will be an opportunity to deliver something innovative that has potential to improve results for learners. If you are in the control group, you will continue to deliver your business-as-usual curriculum. Both groups are vital to the research and will receive payment for being involved. This trial will be delivered as a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) which is a type of evaluation that measures the impact of an intervention or ‘treatment’ using randomisation. Learn more here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnc5YpCvYXA>

**Interested but need more info? Express your interest:** [Multiplied Education Research Trials | Current Trials \(etioglobal.org\)](https://etioglobal.org)

**Ready to sign up? Complete this registration form:**

<https://forms.office.com/e/s72vz7DpPP>

## The Trial

For this trial you will have 50% chance of being assigned to a treatment group to deliver a new approach to teaching GCSE Maths. The trial will test the hypothesis that learners who are explicitly taught study and revision skills relevant to maths and are prepared for the additional work that comes with a Maths GCSE, are more likely to have better outcomes (such as course completion and achievement of qualifications) than those who do not have this preparation. In particular:

- Teaching learners about resilience will make them more likely to complete their course rather than dropping out.
- Teaching learners about a growth mindset will increase their confidence in maths and in their ability to learn, which in turn will make them more likely to complete their course.

Improved retention on courses will lead to greater numbers of learners achieving

- Teaching learners study skills and revision techniques will help them to retain what they are taught and achieve higher grades in their exams, making them more likely to achieve their GCSE maths.

## Timescales for delivery of the trial – Treatment group

# 1

### TEACHER TRAINING

Receive training from MEI in Summer Term 2024.



This timescale is for those within the **treatment group**. Those in the **control group will deliver business-as-usual** GCSE maths courses.

The intervention is designed to be delivered face to face but could be adapted for online or hybrid courses.

The lessons take place within existing GCSE curriculum hours.

Please see the Process Map for Providers below for more detail.

# 2

### TRIAL STARTS

September 2024  
(9 month course)  
January 2025  
(6 month course)



# 3

### DELIVER LESSONS

First 5 one hour lessons delivered within the first 6 weeks of GCSE Maths course.



# 4

### FINAL LESSONS

Teachers deliver the final 2 hours before the Easter Break.



# 5

### GCSE RESULTS

GCSE exam results data will be collected through the Individual Learner Record.



## Who will take part?

- Adults (19+) who have signed up to complete a GCSE maths course

within an adult education provider in England during the 2024/25 academic year.

- These settings will primarily be FE colleges and adult education colleges across England.

## The intervention – Treatment group only

This intervention will test whether adults on Maths GCSE courses who participate in a Preparation for Maths GCSE course are more likely to have better outcomes (such as course completion and achievement of Maths GCSE) than those who do not. The Preparation for Maths GCSE course involves delivering seven lessons of one hour each to adult learners who are studying GCSE maths courses. The lessons take place within existing GCSE curriculum hours and cover theories of resilience and growth mindset, study skills, revision and exam skills.

The course will be delivered by the teachers teach GCSE maths to adults. Teachers delivering the lessons will **complete a free online training course (2 hours)**. A choice of dates for online training will be made available to enable all of those randomised to the treatment group to attend.

The lessons have all been fully developed, each lesson has a PowerPoint presentation and guidance notes for the delivering teachers. The lessons cover:

- Growth mindset and resilience
- An introduction to GCSE maths
- Study skills
- Using IT
- Using a calculator
- Revision techniques
- Exam techniques

Because curriculum hours are being used, and to be as relevant as possible to the course, the product contains mathematical content from the beginning and covers topics that are often included in the first few lessons of a GCSE mathematics course.

## Business as Usual – Control group only

If you are randomly assigned to the control group, you will deliver your GCSE Maths course as planned.

The evaluator will lead on collecting learner surveys at the beginning and end of the trial and also collect some attendance data throughout the trial.

## Training - for teachers in the treatment group

Duration: 2 hours online

Teachers will be able to choose to attend one of the following dates:

- 10<sup>th</sup> July
- 12<sup>th</sup> July
- 10<sup>th</sup> September

## What is expected from a Provider?

Below is a list of compulsory activities that we would expect learning organisations to complete as part of the trial. These will also be outlined in the contractual agreement.

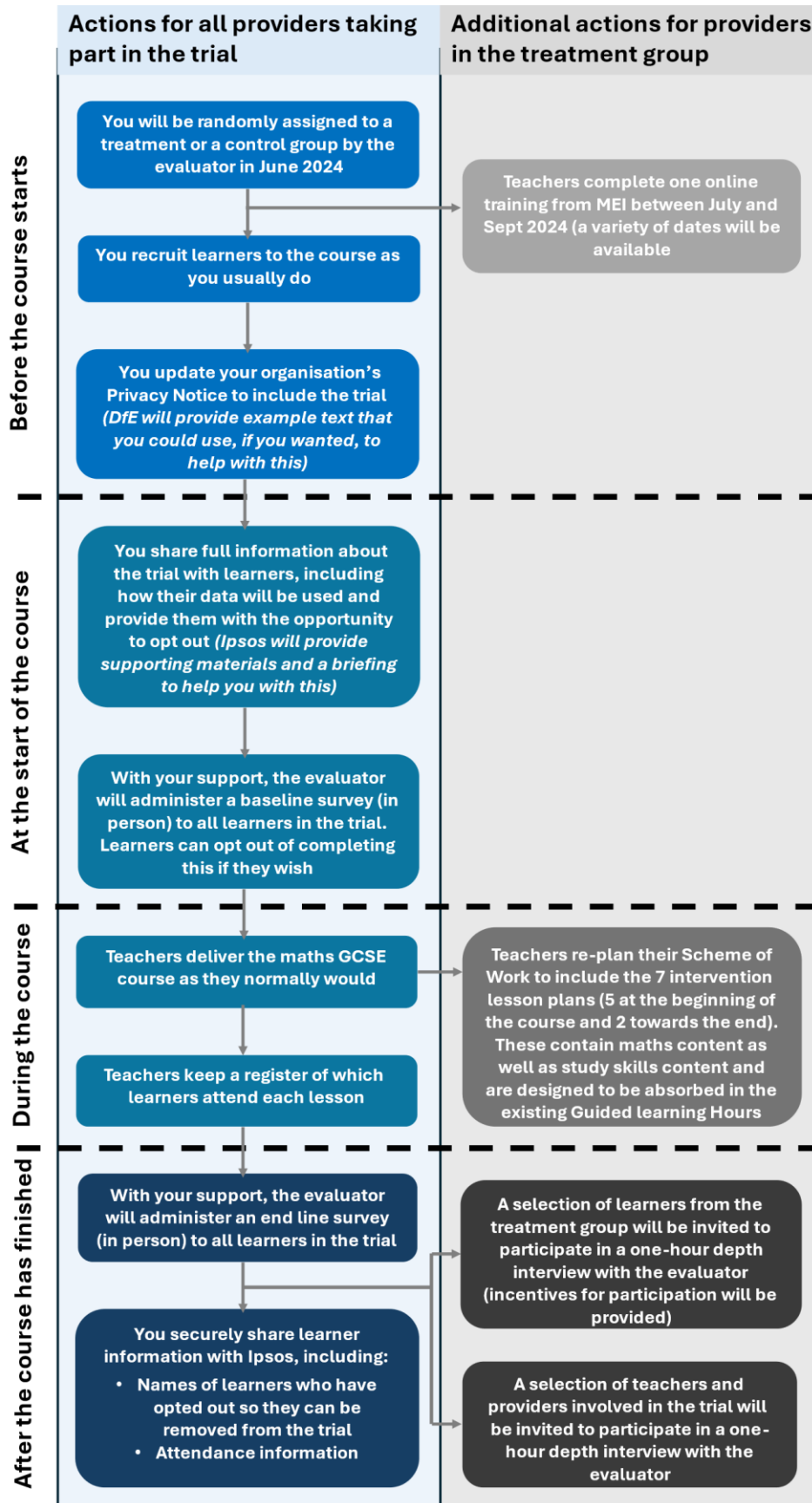
- Share trial documentation with teachers and learners including information sheets explaining the purpose of the research and the course materials (for those selected to be in the treatment group).
- Collect details of learners who opt out of participating in the trial.
- Report to Tribal and Ipsos on learner and teacher numbers and meet with Tribal to raise any risks to recruitment or delivery.
- Collect and share attendance data to Evaluator of learners that take part in the Preparation for Maths GCSE sessions.
- Ensure that teachers attend the training (if they are selected to be in the treatment group).
- Ensure delivery of the Preparation for GCSE course as specified.

Additional optional evaluation activities for learners and teachers that we would hope learning organisations would support in promoting / administering:

- Learner survey(s)
- Interviews with teachers
- Interviews with learners

Some data will be collected by the evaluator from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) dataset and will not need to be provided by the learning organisation, including final GCSE maths grade.

## Process Map for Providers



## Funding and Incentives

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE *GRANT* WILL BE BASED ON TOTAL NUMBER OF LEARNERS RECRUITED FOR THE INTERVENTION AND WHICH GROUP THE PROVIDER IS PLACED INTO, CONTROL OR TREATMENT.

IF PLACED IN THE CONTROL GROUP THE PROVIDER WILL RECEIVE:

- £1,000 plus 10% of estimated total trial funding (admin premium)
- Trial funding will be determined by the number of learners recruited. Total trial cost will be based on £7.20 per project specified learning hour per learner. Plus:
  - Mean area cost uplift (1.01-1.2) applied
  - Maximum disadvantage cost uplift (1.084 and 1.336) applied if applicable

IF PLACED IN THE TREATMENT GROUP THE PROVIDER WILL RECEIVE:

- £1,000 plus 10% of estimated total trial funding (admin premium) and the total trial funding.
- Trial funding will be determined by the number of learners recruited. Total trial cost will be based on £7.20 per project specified learning hour per learner. Plus:
  - Mean area cost uplift (1.01-1.2) applied
  - Maximum disadvantage cost uplift (1.084 and 1.336) applied if applicable
- Teachers will receive free, high-quality training on how to implement the intervention

Further information about funding can be found in the Preparation for Maths GCSE funding guide.

## Incentives

- A series of optional informational/best practice seminars will be run throughout the trials.
- A 'learning platform' for participating providers will be established.
- Local Areas –early / emerging findings will be shared as they become available with local areas
- Learner incentives (offered by Evaluators) –a £30 shopping voucher will be offered as an incentive for learner participation in depth interviews.

## Useful links:

Link to registered Trial Protocol: [OSF Registries | 'Preparation for Maths GCSE' study skills sessions embedded into Maths GCSE](#)

**Questions?** Please contact [Multiply@etioglobal.org](mailto:Multiply@etioglobal.org)

**Multiply Trials website:** [Multiply Education Research Trials | Home \(etioglobal.org\)](#)

**Please find FAQs for the trial here:** [Multiply Education Research Trials | Current Trials \(etioglobal.org\)](#)

**Interested but need more info? Express your interest:** [Multiply Education Research Trials | Current Trials \(etioglobal.org\)](#)

**Ready to sign up? Complete this registration form:**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/s72vz7DpPP>