

## Which calculator should I get for GCSE Maths?

For GCSE Maths, you will need a scientific calculator, but just about any model will do; see the examination guidance below for a list of the functions you need.

The standard GCSE model in the UK is currently the Casio Classwiz fx-83/85GT X (Please refer to the labelled images below for images of mentioned calculators), though Casio has recently (early 2023) brought out the fx-83/85GT CW, which is very different and which I expect will eventually replace the GT X.

The only difference between the 83 and 85 versions of each model is that the 85 is dual fuel, i.e. has a solar panel as well as battery power. The GT X replaces the old fx-83/85GT Plus (shown to its left and now discontinued), and usually costs around £15-£18, though if you're lucky you might find it for £10 or so in a promotion – and that's looking more likely now that the CW is on the market.

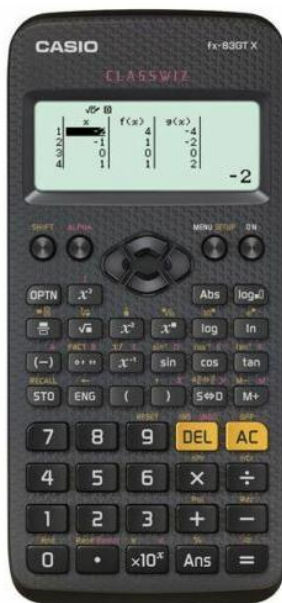
**If you have the older GT Plus then it will still do everything you need for GCSE, so don't worry about that!**

Texas Instruments also produces a range of scientific calculators. Any of these – most of which start with TX-30 – are suitable for GCSE, though if you like to be able to enter your fractions as fractions then you'll need one of the Multiview models. However, Casio pretty much has a stranglehold on the UK market and not many institutions promote the use of TI models.

If you have a really tight budget then you can pick up a scientific calculator in Asda or Wilko (they have a [model that's similar to an older Casio](#)) or even [Poundland](#) – **just make sure you know where to find all the functions you need for your exam!** – though a second-hand GT X or even GT Plus might be a better option.

It's also worth considering an A-level model, especially if you're doing the Higher Tier and there's a possibility that you might continue to study Maths in some form beyond GCSE.

### Casio Classwiz fx-83/85GT X



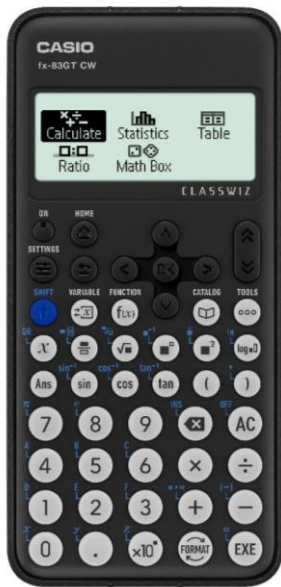
Links to purchasing calculator.

[Amazon](#)

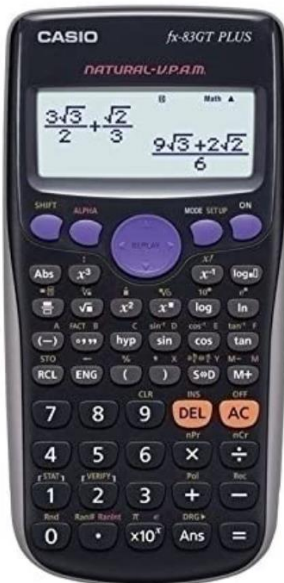
[WHS](#)

[Argos](#)

Casio Classwiz fx-83/85GT X



fx-83/85GT Plus



Here's an extract from AQA but still applies to Edexcel. Guidance for GCSE:

*For GCSE Mathematics exams, calculators should have the following as a minimum requirement:*

- *four rules and square*
- *square root*
- *reciprocal and power function*
- *brackets*
- *a memory facility*
- *appropriate exponential, trigonometric and statistical functions.*

*For the purposes of this specification, a 'calculator' is any electronic or mechanical device which may be used for the performance of mathematical computations. However, only those permissible in the guidance in the Instructions for conducting examinations are allowed in GCSE mathematics examinations.*