Questions:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that exam boards should provide advance information about the focus of the content of exams for the majority of GCSE, AS and A level subjects?

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should be flexible in the timing of the release of advance information in order to respond to the impact on education of any potential worsening of the pandemic?

Do you have any comments on the proposed flexible approach to the timing of the release of advance information in 2022?

The Mathematical Association supports the provision of advance information for GCSE, AS, A level and other academic mathematics qualifications in 2022. The information should be sufficiently comprehensive to allow candidates to meaningfully target their revision but not so detailed that sections of the specifications may be safely ignored. There is a significant risk that early publication could encourage and reward narrow teaching and learning and this would be undesirable for student progression. A publication date in the Spring Term should ensure good coverage of the specifications. It would be sensible to retain the flexibility to bring this date forward in case the impact of the pandemic worsens.

Questions:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that a formulae sheet should be provided in the exam room for GCSE mathematics in 2022?

Do you have any comments on the proposal to provide a formulae sheet in the exam room for GCSE mathematics in 2022?

The Mathematical Association supports the provision of a formulae sheet in the exam room for GCSE mathematics in 2022. There should be separate documents for Foundation Tier and Higher Tier so that candidates are not confused by extraneous information. Where a formula would previously have been provided in the text of an exam question, it should remain in situ to avoid increasing the difficulty of the assessment. The proposed document(s) should be published at the earliest opportunity so that candidates can become familiar with them and know what they are expected to memorise before they sit mock GCSE mathematics exams.