Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

Edexcel Level 1 Award (ANM10)
Proficiency in Number and Measure
Paper 1A + 1B

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Introduction

This exam paper was found to be relatively straight forward and gave a good range of marks for the award of a pass.

Candidates did not show enough working in both Section A and Section B. More marks would have been earned if they had showed their intended methods and their calculations.

All candidates seemed to have a ruler but occasionally there were blank responses where a protractor was needed.

The candidates did not perform well in the questions involving percentages and utility bills.

Reports on Individual Questions

Section A

Question 1

In part (a) 59% of candidates gave the correct answer of 14. A large proportion of candidates scored no marks for working out the area. Only one candidate gained the mark as the method of finding a perimeter. Some candidates worked with the whole grid and some with the outer part of the rectangle. In part (b) 30% of candidates gave both the correct numeric value of 20 and the correct units of cm^2. 44% of candidates obtained 1 mark for writing 20 or giving the correct units but a surprising number of candidates gave the answer as 22 cm, the perimeter of the shape.

Question 2

Part (a) was answered very well and 92% of candidates gained the mark. Part (b) was also well answered and a similar percentage of 93% gained the mark here as well.

Question 3

Only 35% of candidates gained both marks in this question. Frequently candidates added 3, 4, 20, 30 and 80 and gave 137 as their answer and scored no marks. Responses of 830, 8.3 without units and an attempt to add the metres and centimetres separately gained 1 mark and 21% of the candidates did this.

Question 4

This question was very well understood with 99% gaining the mark for ordering whole numbers correctly and 86% gaining the mark for ordering decimals correctly.

Question 5

This question was well understood and 92% of candidates gained all 3 marks. The only errors made were where candidates omitted the labels or drew bars with unequal widths.

Question 6

In this question only 60% of candidates scored all 3 marks. It was very common to award 2 marks for candidates (23%) who just added up the cost of one pack of sweets instead of two, one magazine instead of two and the newspaper. Very few candidates (11%) scored no marks at all.

Question 7

This question was not done very well with only 44% of candidates giving fully correct responses. Many candidates added the three measurements instead of multiplying them and many found the surface areas of the three faces that were visible.

Question 8

This question discriminated very well with a good spread of marks. 26% gained 3 marks for getting all the elements correct, 17% of candidates gained 2 marks for 3 or 4 elements correct and 50% gained one mark for 1 or 2 elements correct. Only 7% of candidates scored no marks.

Question 9

A well answered question with 42% gaining the mark for 9.5 cm in part (a) and 35° in part (b) whilst 41% of candidates gained 1 mark usually because they did not have a protractor so missed out part (b) and some read off the obtuse angle and gave 145 as their solution instead of 35°.

Question 10

This question too was well answered with 94% being able to write a multiple of 4 from the list, 89% being able to write two numbers that add up to 31 from the list and 80% able to write a factor of 36 from the list. The only errors were when candidates did not choose numbers from the list.

Question 11

This question was very poorly answered with only 55% giving the correct answer to counting on two weeks from 4th July and only 30% being able to remember there are 31 days in July and being able to count on until the 15th August.

Question 12

Part (a) was well answered with 91% gaining the mark for 2.88 or $\frac{72}{25}$ was also allowed. Part (b) however was very poorly answered with 46.2 being the modal answer even though it was wrong. Only 25% gained the mark for part (b).

Question 13

This question was poorly answered with only 15% of candidates gaining full marks. Most candidates worked out 10% of £96 but then could not find 5% and subsequently 15%. A few candidates wrote the answer as 14.4 without the £ sign and scored 2 marks out of 3. Two marks were also awarded for those candidates that gave the answer as £81.60 i.e. they worked out the final cost of the coat.

Question 14

Candidates knew what they had to do with this question but often chose inappropriate units e.g. tons for the weight of a bag of potatoes and m for the distance, which was not allowed as metres, was an inappropriate unit. 89% of candidates gained the mark in (a) and 83% in (b).

Question 15

Part (a) was well answered with 95% of candidates scoring the mark. In part (b) there was some confusion with the smallest number and some candidates chose either Belfast or Cardiff instead of Edinburgh (−4 was accepted). 87% of candidates gained the mark.

Question 16

Changing units is not a well understood topic especially when changing millilitres into litres. Only 34% of candidates got this correct in part (a). Most candidates divided or multiplied by 10 or 100 rather than dividing by 1000. In part (b) candidates were only slightly more successful with 48% of candidates gaining the mark. Common faults were to multiply and divide by 100 or to divide by 10 rather than multiply by 10.

Question 17

This question was very poorly answered with only 2% of candidates scoring full marks. The modal answer was £197.40, obtained by adding the two readings and multiplying by 15p. Two marks were awarded to 40% of candidates.

Question 18

A well understood and well answered question with 59% of candidates obtaining the mark.

Question 19

Parts (a) and (b) were well answered with 95% of candidates gaining the marks for part (a) and part (b). If candidates had shown their working in part (c) they would have gained a method mark as £315 was a common wrong answer. Only 60% of candidates gained full marks.

Section B

Question 1

This question was well understood but some candidates made elementary errors in one or more parts. In parts (a) and (b) candidates sometimes reversed the processes and 83% multiplied 26 by 10 correctly and 81% divided 120 by 10 correctly though a common wrong answer was 20. In parts (c) and (d) 85% of candidates added the numbers correctly and 64% correctly subtracted.

Question 2

This question was well answered with few errors being made in writing the number 675 in words (only 3%) and did not score the mark in part (a). In part (b) only 17% of candidates did not write 675 to the nearest hundred. The common wrong answer was to try to write 675 to the nearest ten.

Question 3

57% of candidates were able to give the correct answer of 1224 to part (a) but 19% of the candidates did score 1 mark for a partially correct answer. The division by 5 was not done very well with 46% gaining both marks though again 7% gained one mark for a partially correct solution.

Question 4

Though this is a standard question only 34% of candidates gained both marks with a further 2% gaining one mark for a correct method that would lead to the correct answer.

Question 5

Fractions are not a well understood topic but in part (a) a creditable 71% gained the mark for addition with the most common mistake was to add both denominators. In part (b) a slightly higher percentage (73%) gained the mark with many candidates ending up with a denominator of zero. Finding a quarter was only achieved by 58% of the candidates.

Question 6

A well answered question with 69% gaining the mark. The most common mistake was to think that 1 is a prime number.

Question 7

This question was poorly attempted for a question that was testing basic equivalence between fractions decimals and percentages. Only 58% of candidates realised that ½ was equivalent to 0.5 with 1.2 being a common wrong answer in part (a). In part (b) the common wrong answer was 3.4 or 34 rather than the correct answer of 75% that was given by 49% of candidates. Very few candidates (24%) were able to give the fully simplified answer of one fifth with a further 20% being able to make a start, usually for writing 20 over 100.

Question 8
This was well attempted with 23% of the candidature scoring at least one mark and 68% scoring both marks for the correct answer.

Question 9

A well understood question with 17% scoring one mark and 58% able to correctly subtract £3.75 from £10.00

Question 10

Part (a) was very successful with 89% gaining the mark. The most common wrong answer was to read the time as a quarter to two by reversing the hands. Part (b) was very well answered with 76% of candidates giving the correct answer and a further 3% making a start on finding the difference between the two times.

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