

# Graduated Assessment Mathematics (J517)

Issue 1 Autumn 2007

**Please circulate this newsletter to all teachers using OCR Graduated Assessment**  
*Head of Mathematics Examinations Officer Teachers of Graduated Assessment*

## Two-tier GCSE without coursework

The new two-tier OCR GCSE Mathematics without coursework specifications have been accredited by QCA and are intended for first teaching from September 2007.

The Graduated Assessment specification becomes **J517** and there are changes to all the unit entry codes.

The J517 specification is available on the OCR website, along with the revised Specimen Assessment Materials (SAMs) and Teachers' Guide. A hard copy of the specification will be with you soon, if it has not arrived already. The SAMs and the Teachers' Guide are available solely through the website. Please make members of your department aware of these important documents.

**The specification content and module structure remains the same as for J516.** However, it has been necessary to change the weightings of the assessment objectives in the modules and terminal papers. This is in order to address the removal of the coursework component by increasing the number of questions that assess AO1 through the content of AO2, AO3 and AO4. This is described in the J517 specification. The terminal papers will continue to have a weighting of 50%, with the remaining 50% now derived solely from candidates' two highest-scoring module tests.

The increased weighting of the module tests means that the uniform marks (UMS) awarded for modules has changed from the J516 and 1966 specifications. The scale, or 'ladder', showing the UMS for J517 modules appears on page 7 of the Teacher's Guide.

The new modules 1 to 8 (**B271** to **B278**) will be first available in January 2008.

The new modules 2 to 8 (**B272** to **B278**) will be available in March 2008.

The new modules 1 to 9 (**B271** to **B279**) will be available in June 2008.

The full list of unit availability is detailed on page 15 of the J517 specification.

As a result of the changes to the weightings of the assessment objectives in the module tests it will **not** be possible to transfer modules taken under J516 to the new J517 specification.

The final series where candidates can aggregate under J516 is January 2009 and this will be for both Foundation and Higher tiers.

### Newsletters on the website

*This newsletter now appears solely on the website. Please print or forward copies for members of your maths department and all interested parties using Graduated Assessment.*

# Entry dates

A full list of important dates for the 2008 examinations can be found at the end of this newsletter, in Important dates.

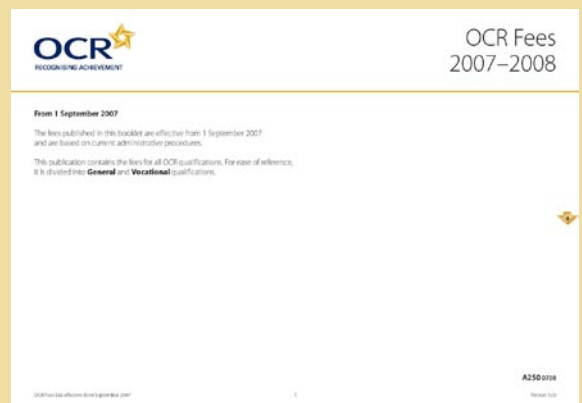
As in previous years, the entry deadline for **all** GCSE June entries is 21 February. The table below details the concessions available after the January and March results are issued.

21 February	Entry deadline for all GCSE June entries: J516: B241 – B254; aggregation J516F or J516H J517: B271 – B279
22 Feb – 21 March (Jan results issued 6 March by EDI & 13 March by Hardcopy)	<b>Without</b> incurring penalty fees centres may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>withdraw</b> existing June module entries (and receive a full entry refund)</li> <li>• enter for <b>re-sits</b> of January modules</li> <li>• change tier of entry (B251 or B252 and J516F or J516H)</li> </ul>
22 March onwards (with exception to re-sit entries following March results)	Centres will incur penalty fees for all J516/J517 entries/ amendments (please refer to the OCR Fees list for further information)
24 April (23 April by EDI)	Issue of March results to centres
24 April – 9 May	<b>Without</b> incurring penalty fees Centres may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enter for <b>re-sits</b> of March modules only</li> </ul>

## Fees

The OCR fees list for the period from September 2007 to August 2008 is now available on the OCR website.

Please see the current OCR fees list for details of when stage 1 and stage 2 penalty fees apply for each examination series.



## OCR-marked coursework tasks for J516 candidates aggregating in June 2008

Those centres choosing the OCR-marked coursework option, B254, are reminded of options contained in Section 6 of the instructions (sent with the tasks):

“OCR-marked tasks previously set for the June 2003 examination session or later may be used as alternatives to the [2008] tasks where they are thought, by the centre, to be more appropriate to the needs of candidates.

Where a centre chooses to exercise this option it should be on the basis of the AO1 and/or AO4 task set for 2008

being replaced by a previous task of the same type for the same cohort. Each candidate is required to submit one AO1 task and one AO4 task.”

The current tasks are ordered by filling out a “Preliminary entries - order for materials” form, available from the Exams Officers’ section of the OCR website, and sending it to Candidate Data. Filling in this form does not mean that your candidates have been entered for the coursework unit. Final entries still need to be submitted by the deadline (21st February).

## e-community

OCR is delighted to be able to provide you with this facility, which allows a virtual network of subject specialists to share their knowledge, views and ideas.

The forum is designed to create a fast and dynamic communication channel - all members will get each message - and OCR will get involved where appropriate. We see it like hosting a network meeting - we provide the venue and invite you all to take part, and let you get on with discussion between yourselves.

If you are interested in joining OCR's Maths Graduated Assessment e-community, visit:

<http://community.ocr.org.uk/community/maths-gcse-ga/home>

## In-Service Training Courses

A summary of the content of the J517 training courses to be run over this academic year is given below. Full details of these courses may be found in the Mathematics Training Programme 2007-2008, available on the OCR website.

### **OCR GCSE Mathematics (all specifications): *Get Ahead – Using problems to engage pupils and deliver the Mathematics curriculum***

*A half day course considering practical problem tasks, assessment following the removal of coursework and engaging pupils in activities whilst developing their thinking skills.*

Date	Location	Course Code
Tues 20 Nov 07	Birmingham	CMAE601
Thurs 6 Dec 07	Manchester	CMAE602
Thurs 17 Jan 08	London	CMAE603
Weds 6 Feb 08	Birmingham	CMAE604

### **OCR GCSE Mathematics (Graduated Assessment) (J517): *Get Ahead – Improving delivery and assessment***

*A whole day course looking at features of the specification, including: assessment; entry and aggregation; UMS; preparing for the exams, and how AO1 will be assessed.*

Date	Location	Course Code
Thurs 22 Nov 07	Coventry	CMAE301
Wed 12 Mar 08	London	CMAE302

### **OCR GCSE Mathematics (Graduated Assessment) (J517): *Get Ahead – Turning Ds into Cs***

*A whole day course looking at the routes, key topics, and requirements for AO1 needed to get a grade C.*

Date	Location	Course Code
Thurs 7 Feb 08	Manchester	CMAE501
Tues 4 Mar 08	Birmingham	CMAE502
Thurs 6 Mar 08	London	CMAE503

### **OCR GCSE Mathematics (Graduated Assessment) (J517): *Get Ahead – Improving candidate performance at foundation tier***

*A whole day course looking at how to use J517 more effectively at the lower end of Foundation tier.*

Date	Location	Course Code
Wed 30 Apr 08	Birmingham	CMAE401
Thurs 8 May 08	London	CMAE402
Thurs 15 May 08	Manchester	CMAE403



# Important dates

Sunday 21 October 2007	Final date for all January 2008 entries
Thursday 10 January 2008	Receipt of centre-marked coursework marks by OCR for January 2008 exam
Monday 14 January 2008 (am)	<b>1966</b> Intermediate terminal examination
Monday 21 January 2008	Final date for all March 2008 entries
Monday 21 January 2008 (am)	<b>1966</b> January module tests (M1 – M9) <b>J516</b> January module tests (M1 – M9) <b>J517</b> January module tests (M1 – M8)
Thursday 21 February 2008	Final date for all GCSE June 2008 entries (Year 10/11 modules and Year 11 entries for terminal, coursework and aggregation code J516F or J516H)
Tuesday 11 March 2008 (am)	<b>J516</b> March module tests (M2 – M10) <b>J517</b> March module tests (M2 – M8)
Thursday 13 March 2008	Issue of January results to centres
Thursday 24 April 2008	Issue of March results to centres
Wednesday 30 April 2008	Despatch of OCR-marked coursework tasks to examiner
Thursday 15 May 2008	Receipt of centre-marked coursework marks by OCR
Monday 2 June 2008 (pm)	Terminal examinations J516 <b>PROVISIONAL DATE*</b>
Tuesday 24 June 2008 (am)	<b>J516</b> June module tests (M1 – M10) <b>J517</b> June module tests (M1 – M9) <b>PROVISIONAL DATE*</b>
Thursday 21 August 2008	Issue of GCSE June results

*\*Please note that as soon as examination dates are finalised, they are published on the OCR website.*

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

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