



RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

FAO: Examinations Officer / Head of Maths
Date: October 2009
Subject: Entries for GCSE Mathematics C (Graduated Assessment) J517

ENTRIES FOR GCSE MATHEMATICS C (GRADUATED ASSESSMENT) J517

Please pass a copy of this Notice to the Head of Maths

GCSE MATHS IS CHANGING

As you may be aware, all maths GCSEs are being revised for first teaching from September 2010. This is to allow the specifications to incorporate the functional elements of maths and problem-solving, and also to address the new Programme of Study for Maths at Key Stage 4.

At the time of going to press, OCR's new GCSE Mathematics specifications are in the process of being approved by Ofqual. You can view these new GCSE specifications at www.ocr.org.uk/2010.

ENTERING YEAR 9 STUDENTS FOR MODULE TESTS

Because of these changes to GCSE specifications in Mathematics, centres should note that if Year 9 students enter J517 Module Tests in 2010, these results will only be able to count towards GCSE certification if students take a Terminal Paper and aggregate for J517 by January 2012 at the latest (the final series of the specification). Results for J517 units cannot be carried forward into the new specifications, which aggregate from June 2012 onwards.

Centres may wish to use the J517 Module Tests in 2010 as a stand-alone assessment for KS3, as the receipt of results in April helps to inform setting decisions for GCSE and record students' NC levels at the end of KS3; the introduction of *OCR Active Results* further enhances the level of feedback teachers receive about students' performance in examinations. However, if you make entries for this purpose you should note that these results cannot be used for GCSE aggregation in June 2012.

If your centre now wishes to withdraw existing entries for Year 9 students for the January 2010 series, you will be refunded if these withdrawals are made by 21 November 2009.

Please also note OCR is planning to offer units for the new specifications in the November 2010 series. This enables centres to start teaching the new specifications as soon as they are approved, and enter students for the first unit early in Year 10. The new specifications will have first certification in June 2012.

MODULE TEST M10 AVAILABLE IN JANUARY

Following a number of enquiries, OCR is delighted to announce that Unit B280 (Module Test M10) is now available in the January series, until and including January 2012. Since coursework was removed from GCSE Maths, centres are using the specification in a greater variety of ways, and a number now prefer Year 11 students to take their final Module Test in January rather than March.

RE-SIT ENTRIES FOR GCSE MATHEMATICS C

If a candidate wishes to re-sit GCSE Mathematics C, a Terminal Paper must always be taken in the series in which certification is requested. If a candidate wishes to re-sit Module Tests, these may also be entered. Each candidate is permitted two attempts at any Module Test prior to certification. After certification, each candidate is permitted to enter a Module Test for a third (and fourth) time. The better of the two most recent attempts at a Module will be available for aggregation. Absence does not count as an attempt.