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Newsletter on OCR's website

This newsletter now appears on OCR's website, and can be found on the J517 qualification page as well as the Graduated Assessment e-community. Please forward copies to members of your maths department and all interested parties using Graduated Assessment.



Coursework requirements

Coursework remains a requirement for GCSE Mathematics certification in summer 2008 and January 2009. Candidates wishing to certificate in these series should be entered for specification **J516** (two-tier with coursework) and the appropriate units.

Coursework is not required for GCSE Mathematics certification from summer 2009, and is therefore not included in the **J517** specification.

Unit availability in 2009

In January 2009, **J517** modules **M1** to **M9** will be available. The unit codes for these module tests are **B271** to **B279** respectively.

In January 2009 there will also be a final aggregation/re-sit opportunity for specification **J516**. Further details are in the section 'Graduated Assessment re-sits.'

In March 2009, **J517** modules **M2** to **M10** will be available. The unit codes for these are **B272** to **B280** respectively.

In June 2009, **J517** modules **M1** to **M10** will be available, along with both the foundation and higher tier terminal papers. The unit codes for the terminal papers are **B281** and **B282** respectively. In addition to the terminal papers, candidates who will be aggregating must be entered for the appropriate certification code, either **J517F** or **J517H**.

Graduated Assessment re-sits

In January 2009, there will be a final aggregation/re-sit opportunity for specification **J516** (two-tier with coursework) at both tiers of entry. Candidates intending to take their GCSE in this series must be entered for a terminal paper (**B251** or **B252**) and the relevant certification code (**J516F** or **J516H**).

Candidates are also able to enter for **J516** modules if desired, which could count towards the overall grade. Modules M1 to M9 will be available, with unit codes **B241** to **B249** respectively. New coursework may also be submitted; this must be centre-marked coursework, which has unit code **B253**.

Entry deadlines and fees

A full list of key dates for the 2009 examinations can be found at the end of this newsletter. The entry deadlines for the 2009 examinations are as follows:

- The entry deadline for January 2009 examinations is 21 October 2008
- The entry deadline for March 2009 examinations is 21 January 2009
- The GCSE entry deadline for June 2009 examinations is 21 February 2009

The full fees list for the academic year 2008-2009 will be published on OCR's website in September, and will detail the entry fees for individual units as well as the penalty fees for entries and amendments made after these deadlines. The concessions made after the publication of the January and March results will be published in a later issue.

e-community

The Graduated Assessment e-community has been updated and now includes answers to some of OCR's most frequently asked questions about the course, as well as links to key documents and web pages. You can access the e-community's home page at the following address:

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

The Aggregator has been added to the resources section of the e-community. This spreadsheet allows teachers to aggregate mock terminal papers and module test results to produce an estimated overall grade. A version for **J516**, which includes coursework, is also available.

By subscribing to the e-community, you will be able to access the message archive and the members' documents and resources. This 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.

Please visit <http://community.ocr.org.uk/community/maths-gcse-ga/home> to find out more.

ExamQuest

Doublestruck Ltd has produced *ExamQuest* for several OCR specifications. *ExamQuest* provides a new range of databases containing examination questions, mark schemes and examiners' reports from OCR. *ExamQuest* databases can be downloaded from www.examquest.co.uk and a licence key purchased all on the same day. The licence allows your school to install the product on as many machines within the school as desired. It also allows teachers to install the database at home so that they can prepare work outside school. The interface will be immediately familiar to any teachers using Doublestruck's *Testbase* software to create materials from the QCA's end of Key Stage tests.

The software is available for three OCR Mathematics specifications, namely:

GCSE Maths C (Graduated Assessment)

GCSE Maths A (Linear)

GCE Pure and Further Pure Maths

On the *ExamQuest* website, teachers are also able to download free trial versions of these programs. In the case of GCSE Maths C, the trial version includes a mock **M7** (50 marks). The GCSE Maths A trial version has a higher tier calculator paper **J512/04** (100 marks).

Full details and instructions can be found at www.examquest.co.uk.

New revision guides

New revision guides have been produced for the two-tier GCSE maths specifications. These guides, published by Hodder Murray and written by senior examiners, are endorsed by OCR for Graduated Assessment, the linear GCSE course and Maths B (MEI) GCSE.

The books are divided into two sections by approximate level of difficulty. The accompanying CD-ROM contains extra practice questions, extra exam-style questions and answers. There are plenty of features to give students every chance of exam success:

- 'Test Yourself' supports students' revision of each topic
- Advice and guidance on exam techniques
- Exam-style questions throughout give students regular opportunities to practise their exam skills

Publication details:

Foundation Tier OCR GCSE Mathematics Revision Guide Second Edition
ISBN: 9780340959220

Higher Tier OCR GCSE Mathematics Revision Guide Second Edition
ISBN: 9780340959176

Visit www.hoddereducation.co.uk for more information.

Training programme 2008-09

A summary of the content of the **J517** training courses to be run over the next academic year is given below. Full details of these courses may be found in the Mathematics Training Programme 2008-2009, which will be available on the **J517** qualification pages of OCR's website in the near future. Please check the website for updates.

New for 2008-09* OCR GCSE Mathematics (Graduated Assessment) (J517): *Get Ahead – Raising standards through examination feedback

This half day course gives feedback on the first session of two-tier terminal papers, considering: question papers, mark schemes and the reports from the principal examiners. This will take place in the first half of the autumn term.

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

This whole day course details the features of the specification, including: assessment, entries and aggregation, UMS, preparing for the exams and how AO1 is assessed. This will take place in the second half of the autumn term and also in the spring term.

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

This whole day course looks at the routes, key topics, and requirements for AO1 needed to get a grade C. This will take place in the spring term.

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

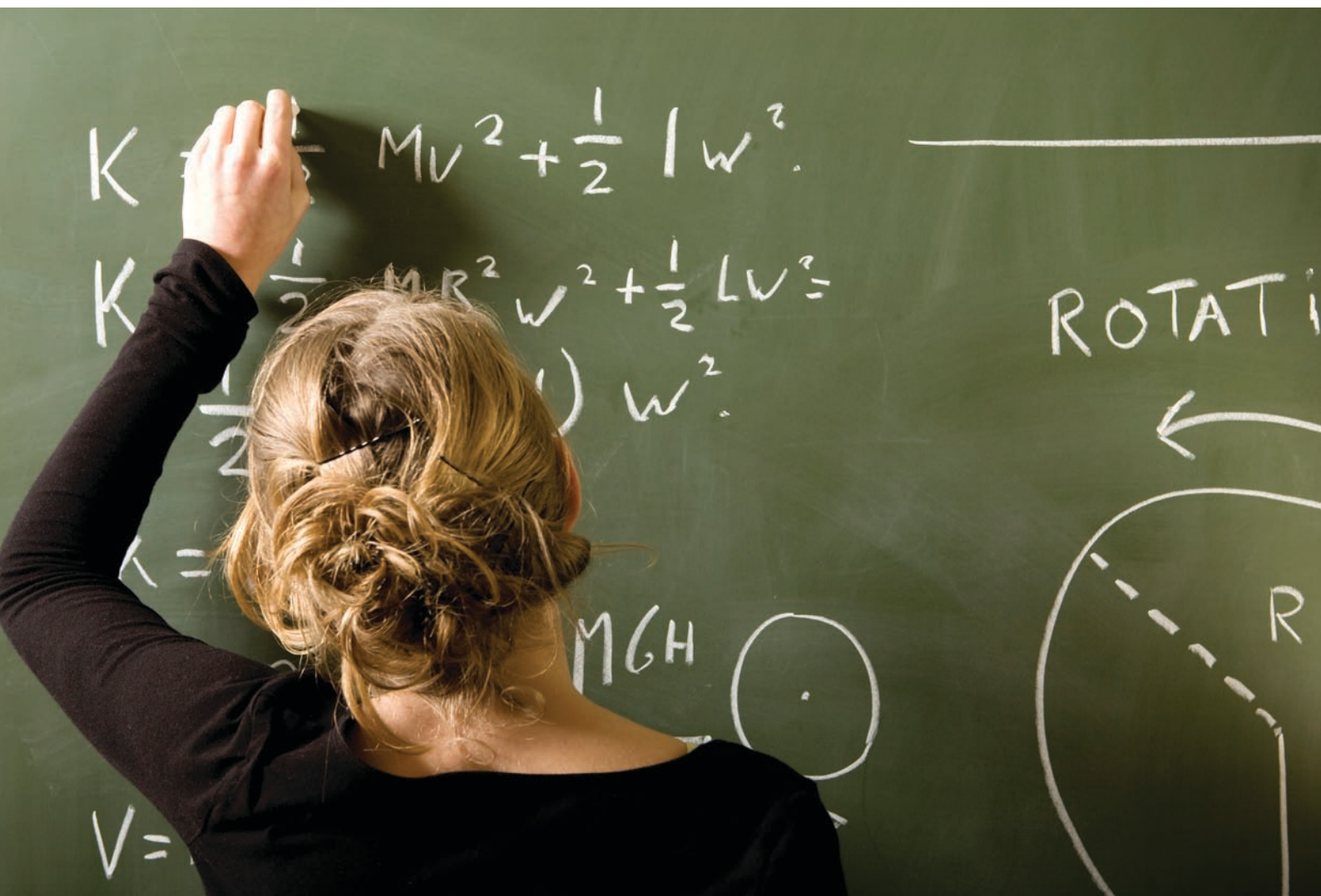
This whole day course examines ways to use Graduated Assessment effectively at the lower end of the foundation tier. This course will take place in the spring term.



Key dates

Thursday 21 August 2008	Issue of provisional GCSE June 2008 results
Tuesday 21 October 2008	Entry deadline for all January 2009 entries
Saturday 10 January 2009	Receipt of centre-marked coursework marks by OCR and receipt of tasks by the moderator, for the January 2009 J516 exam
Wednesday 14 January 2009 (pm)	J516 Terminal examinations
Tuesday 20 January 2009 (am)	J517 January module tests (M1 – M9) J516 January module tests (M1 – M9)
Wednesday 21 January 2009	Entry deadline for March 2009 entries
Saturday 21 February 2009	Entry deadline for all GCSE June 2009 entries: Year 10/11 modules, and Year 11 entries for terminal paper and aggregation code J517F or J517H
Monday 9 March 2009 (am)	J517 March module tests (M2 – M10)
Thursday 12 March 2009	Issue of provisional January results to centres
Thursday 23 April 2009	Issue of provisional March results to centres
Monday 1 June 2009 (am) PROVISIONAL DATE*	J517 Terminal examinations
Tuesday 23 June 2009 (am) PROVISIONAL DATE*	J517 June module tests (M1 – M10)

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



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