

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 print or forward copies for members of your maths department and all interested parties using Graduated Assessment.

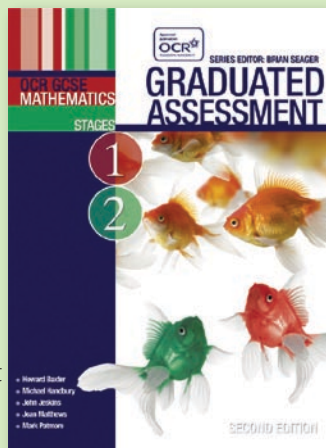
Graduated Assessment series from Hodder Education

Endorsed by OCR for use with the OCR GCSE Mathematics C (Graduated Assessment) specification and written by experienced authors and examiners, the bestselling Graduated Assessment for OCR GCSE Mathematics provides comprehensive print and digital support.

The course consists of Students' Books, Teachers' Resources (with CD-ROM), and Homework Books (with Personal Tutor CD-ROM) for each of the 10 stages of the specification, along with separate Foundation and Higher Edition Assessment Packs, Networkable Personal Tutor CD-ROMs and Networkable Interactive Investigations CD-ROMs.

For more information visit www.hoddereducation.co.uk

Hodder Education are currently offering **20% discount** on purchases of 15 or more of any components of *Graduated Assessment for OCR Mathematics* until 30 November 2008. Orders must be placed through Bookpoint Ltd, quoting reference code 2002968. Contact Bookpoint Ltd on **01235 827720** or education@bookpoint.co.uk.



GCSE Mathematics is changing!

GCSE Mathematics is being revised for first teaching in 2010 and first certification in Summer 2012 alongside English and ICT. This revision takes into account the changes being made to the Key Stage 4 programme of study, which includes Functional Skills. OCR is already reviewing GCSE Mathematics and is undertaking a consultation with teachers and other interested parties to develop new assessment models for these specifications.

Redevelopment presents exciting opportunities. As part of this process, OCR is taking the opportunity to review how the question papers are designed. Consideration is being given to important issues such as the length of each paper, font size, the percentage of papers for which calculators are allowed and the language used.

Present plans are that a Level 2 pass in Functional Mathematics will be required for a GCSE Grade C or above to be awarded. The Level 2 pass in Functional Mathematics can be achieved in either the same session or in an earlier session than GCSE Mathematics (a similar hurdle will apply to GCSE English and GCSE ICT).

OCR has now formed its own GCSE Mathematics development group and is keen to hear views from teachers and other interested parties. Please email your contact details to GCSE.Maths@ocr.org.uk so that OCR can keep you updated with developments and, where appropriate, seek your opinion on the issues that matter.

Entering year 9 students for module tests

Some centres have enquired about the possibility of entering Year 9 students for module tests, especially in the June series that follows the end of Key Stage 3 tests. This is allowed, and the results of these module tests could count towards aggregation. Many centres find that this helps to smooth the transition from Key Stage 3 to GCSE. Some suggested options include entering high-ability students for M7 or M8, as much of the content of these modules can be covered when preparing for the level 6-8 Key Stage 3 tests. Similarly, groups eventually aiming towards grade C could start with module M4 or M5 in Year 9.

You may be aware that GCSE Mathematics is scheduled to be revised for first teaching in September 2010 with first certification in Summer 2012. More details are given below in the section 'GCSE Mathematics is changing'. Given the likelihood that module test scores will not be transferable from J517 to any revised specification, it is probably inadvisable to make early entries for J517 module tests for those students planned to certificate in Summer 2012. These students will most likely be in Year 8 in the academic year 2008-09.

e-community

Membership of the Graduated Assessment e-community continues to grow apace. 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* spreadsheet can be found in the resources section of the e-community. This allows teachers to combine mock terminal papers and module test results to produce an estimated overall grade. You will also find spreadsheets that convert raw scores on mock module tests and terminal papers into UMS and grades.

By joining the e-community, you will be able to access the archive of emails sent to members. 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. Past papers from the 2008 series are also available to members.



Concessions for June 2009 entries

The deadline for all June 2009 GCSE entries is **Saturday 21 February 2009**. For Year 10 students, this will generally be for a module test, B271 to B280. For Year 11 students, this will generally be for a terminal paper, B281 or B282, along with the appropriate certification code, J517F or J517H. Module tests may, of course, also be entered.

From Saturday 21 February 2009 until **Saturday 21 March 2009**, centres are able to:

- withdraw any existing June 2009 entries, and receive a refund,
- enter for re-sits of the unit(s) taken in January 2009 without penalty,
- change tier of entry (B281 or B282 and certification code J517F or J517H) without penalty.

Results for the January 2009 series will be issued on Thursday 12 March 2009.

After Saturday 21 March 2009, penalty fees will be applied to all June 2009 entries and amendments, except certification entries and those covered by the re-sit rule below:

Results for the March series will be issued on Thursday 23 April 2009. From this date until **Saturday 9 May 2009**, centres are able to enter for re-sits of modules taken in March 2009 without penalty.

After Saturday 9 May 2009, penalty fees will apply to all June 2009 entries and amendments, except certification entries.

Graduated Assessment re-sits

In January 2009, there is an aggregation/re-sit opportunity for specification J516 (with coursework). Candidates intending to re-sit 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.

Training programme 2008-2009

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 2008-2009, available on OCR's website.

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 27 Nov 2008	Coventry	OMAA301
Thurs 12 Feb 2009	London	OMAA302

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
Wed 25 Mar 2009	Coventry	OMAA501

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

A whole day course, which looks at how to use J517 more effectively at the lower end of Foundation tier.

Date	Location	Course Code
Wed 11 Mar 2009	Nottingham	OMAA401

Also available, with details in the Mathematics Training Programme, are courses from Mill Wharf Training, which offers motivational and practical courses suitable for any specification.



Key dates

Tuesday 21 October 2008	Final date 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	Final date for all March 2009 entries
Saturday 21 February 2009	Final date 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 January results to centres via Interchange and EDI
Thursday 23 April 2009	Issue of March results to centres
Monday 1 June 2009 (am)	J517 Terminal examinations Provisional date*
Tuesday 23 June 2009 (am)	J517 June module tests (M1 – M10) Provisional date*
Updated Thursday 27 August 2009	Issue of June GCSE results to centres

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



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