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Dear Jo

Level 3 Certificates in Quantitative Problem Solving and Quantitative Reasoning (MEI)

MEI is pleased to have been involved in developing the Level 3 Certificates in Quantitative Problem Solving and Quantitative Reasoning with OCR. Our research and development work, and our feedback from centres indicate that these qualifications will meet the needs of a wide range of students who have already succeeded with GCSE Mathematics and for whom AS/A level Mathematics is not suitable.

These qualifications will enable students to develop skills and confidence in solving problems in a wide range of contexts where mathematical and statistical understanding is important for successful progression to further study and work.

Initiatives in Higher Education, such as the Q-Step programme and the British Academy quantitative skills programme, highlight the need to strengthen the quantitative skills of future undergraduates. Our research and development work has confirmed that such skills are also highly regarded by employers.

The structure of the qualifications, with the common component, 'Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning', will allow schools and colleges to ensure that their students are able to develop a common core of knowledge and understanding and to extend it further in ways that best meet their needs and aspirations.

The Level 3 Certificate in Quantitative Problem Solving will be particularly suitable for students whose future work and study require them to understand and use statistical methods.

The Level 3 Certificate in Quantitative Reasoning will enable students to acquire a strong quantitative sense, allowing them to understand, analyse and question quantitative information with confidence.

Both qualifications will support future employment and effective citizenship, and both can help catalyse a change of culture to a population that understands the value of mathematics and is comfortable applying mathematics to help address real problems.



Charlie Stripp, Chief Executive