

ELC

Mathematics

Entry Level Certificate **R448**

OCR Report to Centres June 2014

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This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this report.

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Administration

Thank you to all those centres who correctly administered the tests and ensured that the required samples were sent to the moderator, once notified, along with the correct paperwork. A small number of centres however, sent all their candidates work to the moderator unnecessarily. Please remember that centres should wait until they are notified by email and **then** send their sample to the moderator along with the moderator copy of the MS1. The majority of centres submitted the correct versions of the papers. Thank you.

There were a significant proportion of centres whose paperwork was incomplete or unsatisfactory in some way. Please send both the moderator copy of the MS1 **and** the Coursework Summary Form (available from Interchange) to the moderator with the sample. It is also necessary to send a single copy of the Centre Authentication Form (CCS160) with the work. Without this document, final awards may be delayed. Centres should note that only one signature per teacher involved is required, not one per candidate. Candidates should have a cover sheet attached to their work to summarise their overall marks.

All correspondence with the moderator will initially be through email. Please ensure that the email contact address given to the board is checked regularly. For all correspondence with the moderator, it is essential that deadlines are met if results are to be issued on time, especially those informing OCR of initial marks.

Of greater concern to moderators is the significant downturn in the adherence to administrative procedures in general, by a number of centres. A larger proportion failed to check the accuracy of marking, and the recording of final marks for assessment on the MS1 was poor in a number of cases. Moderators also noted that a number of centres seemed to be using only one version of the Assessments. Whilst this is acceptable, it may be disadvantaging a proportion of candidates. Centres are reminded that candidates should attempt two versions of the In Course Tests and the better result for each component (of either version), should be submitted. Centres are also reminded that candidates must attempt a version of each test once only.

Centres do consider how papers are to be presented to candidates – whether as back to back copies, on coloured paper to differentiate versions, or produced as a booklet. Please check that when papers are printed, all pages are present and that they are in the correct order when given to candidates. It is not advisable to reduce the size of scripts, although for some candidates enlargements may be useful.

Marking

Marking seen by all moderators seemed to show a general adherence to the mark scheme. There were however, still a minority of centres where the mark scheme seemed to be incidental rather than central to the marking. Teachers can (and should) write on scripts to clarify marking.

The area continuing to cause many problems, was an increase in arithmetical and clerical errors as well as, for some centres, a lack of consistency across papers. This seems to indicate that a number of schools are still not carrying out a sufficiently rigorous internal moderation process to eliminate marking mistakes, totalling errors, transfer of mark errors and recording errors.

As for all tasks done in school and submitted for external moderation, it is important that centres have in place a method whereby marking is checked for accuracy and consistency and that candidates marks are checked for clerical errors before being submitted to the board. This will cause both moderators and centres less problems in the long run.

Comments on individual papers

Written Test 1 – Version 5

Question 7 – please allow candidates the required amount of leniency (within 5mm).

Written Test 2 – Version 5

Question 6 – the answer must be in millimetres.

Practical Task – Version 5

It is advisable that candidates be given a separate copy of the menu (found on the last page of the exam paper) rather than it being printed on the back page of the exam paper.

Throughout the papers it is important that the notes in the mark scheme are adhered to. Eg if 'follow through' marks are available it will say so.

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