

ELC

Mathematics

Entry Level Certificate **R449**

OCR Report to Centres June 2017

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA) is a leading UK awarding body, providing a wide range of qualifications to meet the needs of candidates of all ages and abilities. OCR qualifications include AS/A Levels, Diplomas, GCSEs, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, Functional Skills, Key Skills, Entry Level qualifications, NVQs and vocational qualifications in areas such as IT, business, languages, teaching/training, administration and secretarial skills.

It is also responsible for developing new specifications to meet national requirements and the needs of students and teachers. OCR is a not-for-profit organisation; any surplus made is invested back into the establishment to help towards the development of qualifications and support, which keep pace with the changing needs of today's society.

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.

© OCR 2017

CONTENTS

Entry Level Certificate

Mathematics (R449)

OCR REPORT TO CENTRES

Content	Page
Entry Level Certificate Mathematics R449	4

Entry Level Certificate Mathematics R449

Administration

Thank you to all those centres who correctly administered the tests and ensured that the required samples were sent to the moderator, after they were notified, along with the correct paperwork. Please remember that centres should wait until they are notified by email and **then** send their sample to the moderator.

There were a proportion of centres whose paperwork was incomplete or unsatisfactory in some way. Please ensure both the Coursework Summary form (GCW183) and the individual candidate cover sheets (CCS159) are sent to the moderator with the sample. All correspondence with the moderator will be through email initially. Please ensure that the email contact address given to the board is correct and regularly checked. It is also essential that deadlines are kept to for all correspondence with the moderator if results are to be issued on time, especially informing OCR of the marks initially.

The area that is continuing to cause many problems with a significant number of centres was an increase in arithmetical and clerical errors as well as, for some centres, a lack of consistency across papers. Moderators were concerned that a significant proportion of centres (especially those new to entry level) were not completing sufficient internal moderation before marks were submitted. This should be done to check the following

- The mark scheme has been correctly and accurately applied.
- Notes within the mark scheme have been read and applied.
- The mark scheme has been consistently applied by all markers.
- Totals on individual papers are correct.
- Totals submitted to OCR are correct.

In the long run good internal moderation will cause both moderators and centres less problems. Moderators did note that a number of centres continued 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 there are 3 versions of each of the Preliminary and Final papers and candidates can attempt all versions and submit their best results. Centres are reminded that resits are permitted, reusing any available version provided that the same paper is not sat twice within a two week period.

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

Marking

There was a general concern shown by moderators that a number of centres were not applying the marks scheme correctly on both Preliminary and Final papers and therefore disadvantaging candidates. Where more than 1 mark is available for a question, in general the correct answer will gain full marks even if intermediate working has not been seen. In a large number of cases the marking seen by all the moderators seemed to show a general adherence to the mark scheme, although there is a significant minority of centres where the mark scheme seemed to be incidental rather than central to the marking. Many more candidates had incorrect answers marked right and correct ones marked wrong. Teachers can (and should) write on scripts to clarify marking. There was also an increase in centres where candidates work had not been

marked wrong. Please remember, these are examination scripts and should be fully marked even if they are also to be used as internal diagnostic tests. It is recommended that actual marks awarded are written on the scripts not purely ticks to be counted.

Practical task

It is essential that Practical tasks are sent to the moderator with information regarding all of the following

- Indication of the starter task and guidance given to candidates on their task.
- Clear notes of how marks have been awarded for all three strands.
- Annotation of the scripts to explain where marks have been awarded for all three strands.

Within AO1 it was noted that many candidates were following a structure given to them or answering a set of questions supplied by staff, If the supervisor has done the planning on behalf of the learner by providing the structure or a set of questions then there should be a maximum of 6 marks awarded on AO1. Where all candidates did the same task within a centre this was more obvious. It is also important that candidates who are to be awarded more than 6 marks should have a significant number of mathematical techniques to show at all levels. To achieve more than 10 marks there should be maths at all three levels obvious within the task. These techniques should demonstrate a range of mathematical skills and not be limited to only arithmetical calculations using ICT.

The appropriate use of technology should be encouraged, but when used, candidates should be able to explain the mathematical processes that have been performed.

Further guidance on the awarding of marks using exemplar material from the first live assessment series will be available for subsequent years.

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
1 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 2EU

OCR Customer Contact Centre

Education and Learning

Telephone: 01223 553998

Facsimile: 01223 552627

Email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

www.ocr.org.uk

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations
is a Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England
Registered Office; 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU
Registered Company Number: 3484466
OCR is an exempt Charity

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
Head office
Telephone: 01223 552552
Facsimile: 01223 552553

© OCR 2017

