



Wednesday 22 May 2019 - Morning

Level 3 Certificate Quantitative Reasoning (MEI)

H866/02 Critical Maths

Insert

Time allowed: 2 hours

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Share Indexes

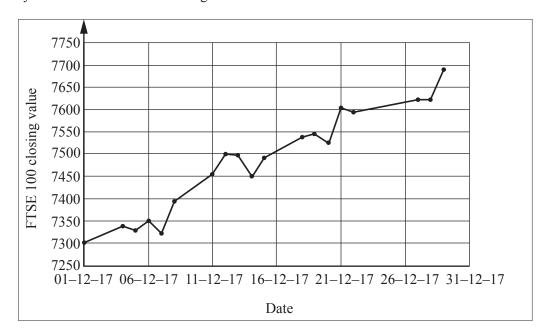
Companies sell shares to raise money. Investors who buy the shares are paid a dividend from the profits of the company. Typically, a dividend is a certain amount per share, for example 15.2p per share; the amount depends on how much profit the company has made. Investors can also sell the shares to other people. Shares are bought and sold on the Stock Exchange and can go up or down in value.

There are several well-known share indexes such as the Dow Jones Index, the Nikkei Index and the FTSE 100 Index. Each of these is a way of measuring the performance of important shares in part of the world.

The FTSE 100 Index, also known as the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Index, tracks the performance of 100 of the largest companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. The index began on 3 January 1984 with a value of 1000. Increases in the index indicate that the largest companies are doing well (and decreases indicate that they are not doing so well). The FTSE 100 index reached 7000 points on 20 March 2015.

Some people invest in shares using a stockbroker (a specialist company) to decide which shares to buy; the value of a share index provides them with an idea of how well shares are doing generally. A country's Stock Exchange provides an indicator of how the economy in that country is doing.

The graph below shows the variations in the FTSE 100 closing value during December 2017. There are no points plotted for days on which the Stock Exchange is closed.



The value of each index is reported online (often with an indication of whether it is increasing or decreasing). The value at the end of the day is the closing value but the value also fluctuates during the course of a single day.



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