June 27, 2014

Ms J. Deko,
OCR (Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations) ,
9 Hills Road,
Cambridge CB1 2EU

Dear Ms Deko and colleagues,

I am writing in support of OCR's Level 3 *Certificate in Quantitative Reasoning (MEI)*.

I am a member of the Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education, of the Education Committee of the London Mathematical Society, of the curriculum committee of the Institute of Physics, of OCR's Higher Education Forum, and of MEI's Critical Mathematics group. I was a member both of ACME's original working group on post-16 mathematics-for-all, and of the DfE/ACME Expert Group on Core Mathematics.

OCR's *Certificate in Quantitative Reasoning* seems to me to be exactly what is required to fulfil the DfE technical specification for such courses. It offers a sound balance of material, between the more conventional treatment of the *Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning* (IQR) and the more adventurous *Critical Maths* (CritM). I have been of the opinion since its inception that OCR's *Quantitative Methods*, upon which IQR is based, is the best of the available possibilities upon which Core Maths qualifications could build—above all it avoids the pitfalls into which *Use of Maths* fell a few years ago, causing a debacle. CritM extends this in ways which should develop in students both their numeracy and the ability to use it to reach correct conclusions about quantitative questions of general concern in science, business, finance, policy and society.

The qualification seems to me to offer a well-judged balance of technique and problem-solving, above all in its assessment, which makes good use of pre-release material. In particular, the developers have made a very nice job of the difficult task of specifying the content of CritM,—of describing the essential 'toolkit' with which we wish to equip students.

Of course it is certainly also the case that a great deal of material will have to be developed to support *teachers* in delivering this qualification effectively, but I have no doubt that OCR have both the will and the capacity to do this.

Yours,

Niall MacKay