



Mathematics in Education and Industry

MEI STRUCTURED MATHEMATICS

**MEI Conference
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**The new 2-Tier GCSE Specification
From June 2008**

J519

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MEI GCSE Specification – J519 From June 2008

Government recently announced that there would no longer be any assessed coursework in GCSE Mathematics.

MEI has therefore adapted the current 2-tier scheme (J518) to meet the new criteria.

The aims and design considerations are the same as the new 2-tier with coursework, J518

The structure of the specification

(a) Tiers

In common with all specifications and new regulations, there are two tiers of entry: Foundation and Higher.

In each tier there are 5 grades available.

Grades		
A*		HIGHER TIER Grades D to A*
A		
B		
C	FOUNDATION TIER Grades G to C	
D		
E		
F		
G		

(b) Modularity

There are now only two parts to the assessment:

- | | | |
|------|----------------|-----|
| (i) | Modular paper | 40% |
| (ii) | Terminal paper | 60% |

The first paper specifically aims to:

- provide an accessible paper which can be taken during the course to give candidates a sense of achievement and progress;
- provide information on candidates' mathematical progress;
- help candidates who are also working towards Key Skill Application of Number by providing the techniques they need in the early part of the course.

(c) Units

Unit	Title	Duration	Weighting
B291	Foundation Modular Paper, Paper 1	1½ hours	40%
B293	Higher Modular Paper, Paper 3	1½ hours	40%
B292	Foundation Terminal Paper, Paper 2	2 hours	60%
B294	Higher Terminal Paper, Paper 4	2 hours	60%

Grades	FOUNDATION TIER Grades G to C	HIGHER TIER Grades D to A*
A*		Candidates take units B293 and B294
A		
B		
C	Candidates take units B291 and B292	
D		
E		
F		
G		

(d) Entry Options

- two year course, full assessment at the end
- two year course, Paper 1 taken early
- one year course, full assessment at the end
- one year course, Paper 1 in January, Paper 2 in June
- one term course for retakes in January
- fast track for yr 11 by taking paper 1 in June and paper 2 in January

*Candidates who do not do as well as they had hoped in Paper 1 taken early are able to re-sit.
Candidates may enter the terminal paper in a different tier from the modular paper.*

(e) **Question papers**

Marks: Paper 1 is out of 72. Paper 2 is out of 100.

Each paper has 2 sections: Section A is non-calculator and Section B is with calculators

Allocation of marks between grades

Foundation

	G to F	E to C	Total
Paper 1	44	28	72
Paper 2	42	58	100
Total	86	86	172

	G	F	E	D	C	Total
Paper 1	23-26	20-23	14-18	5-8	5-8	72
Paper 2	23-26	20-24	20-25	15-18	15-18	100

Higher

	D to C	B to A*	Total
Paper 1	44	28	72
Paper 2	42	58	100
Total	86	86	172

	D	C	B	A	A*	Total
Paper 3	23-26	20-23	14-18	5-8	5-8	72
Paper 4	23-26	20-24	20-25	15-18	15-18	100

(f) **Assessment Objectives**

- Using and Applying Mathematics (AO1)
- Number and Algebra (AO2)
- Shape, Space and Measures (AO3)
- Handling Data (AO4)

Assessment Objective AO1 is assessed in contexts provided by the other Assessment Objectives.

The allocation of marks between assessment objectives is as follows:

Paper	AO2 Number	AO2 Algebra	AO3 Shape and Space	AO4 Handling Data	Total
B291	21-23	14-15	18-22	14-17	72
B292	30-33	21-23	25-30	17-21	100
B293	14-15	21-23	18-22	14-17	72
B294	21-23	30-33	25-30	17-21	100

The number/Algebra split is as follows:

Foundation	2:1
Higher	1:2

A proportion of the paper will be deemed “multistep” as follows:

Tier	Foundation	Higher
	7-10%	13-15%

Approximately 20% of marks will be identified as AO1.

(g) Uniform Marks

The modular paper will be reported as a Uniform Mark. For the purposes of aggregation the terminal paper and the coursework will also be converted to a uniform mark.

The grade thresholds will be as follows:

	Foundation Paper 1	Foundation Paper 2	Higher Paper 1	Higher Paper 2	Total
A*	-	-	144	216	360
A	-	-	128	192	320
B	-	-	112	168	280
C	96	144	96	114	240
D	80	120	80	120	200
E	64	96	64	96	160
F	48	72	-	-	120
G	32	48	-	-	80

Availability

There are two sessions, January and June.

Papers for this specification will be offered as follows:

	June 2008	January 2009	June 2009	January 2010
B291	Y	Y	Y	Y
B292			Y	Y
B293	Y	Y	Y	Y
B294			Y	Y

Examples of AO1 marks in the written papers

There are questions that need to meet the criteria for AO1, Using and Applying Mathematics. These will also meet one of the other Assessment Objectives (i.e. marks will be “double-flagged”.) In particular, most multistep marks meet the criteria for Strand 1. (Strategy – making and monitoring Decisions).
In addition, for J519, there will be short “investigative” questions.

Support

OCR will provide:

- A full programme of in-service training
(telephone 01223 552950)
- Specimen question papers and mark schemes
(telephone 0870 870 6622 – also on the OCR website.)
- Past question papers and mark schemes
(telephone 08708706622)
- Coursework guidance materials.
Examples of marked work
Written advice on coursework proposals
Feedback on the moderation of internally assessed work
Examination reports

MEI will provide:

- Annual conference in July
- CPD days and half-days
- Local branches
- Newsletters
- Website
- Advice from Mathematicians
- Practice papers and other relevant materials
- Coursework Bank.