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Learning and Assessment Design and Practice
City & Guilds
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Dear Paul

City and Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Using and Applying Mathematics (Core Maths) (3849)

On behalf of the Royal Statistical Society, I am writing to you with our comments for this qualification, following our consideration of the specification and supporting materials that you provided to us.

The Royal Statistical Society's response to the DfE Policy Statement on 16 to 18 Core Mathematics Qualifications in England of February 2014 and our response to the Department for Education's consultation on Core Maths Technical Guidance of May 2014 (both available on our website), clearly indicate what features we would like to see the Core Mathematics qualifications to have, namely to:

- contain the full statistics cycle;
- have statistics content that is up-to-date and relevant to target students, in their everyday lives and in higher education or in work;
- ensure students gain experience of working with datasets, especially realistic ones;
- have students work with data using IT.

We also expressed a preference for data handling to be assessed and thought that innovative external assessment, eg through the use of pre-release datasets would be beneficial.

We are pleased to see much of this in the qualification, in particular the strong emphasis on working with data graphically, communicating with a variety of statistical data representations, and the section on "Interpreting data critically", which includes ensuring students can understand "how the data is coupled with the reality from which it is drawn" and working with large data sets. We are also pleased to see the requirement for the use of IT.

Yours sincerely



Scott Keir
Head of education and statistical literacy

