

Paul Sowerbutts  
Learning and Assessment Design and Practice  
City & Guilds  
1, Giltspur Street  
EC1A 9DD

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Dear Paul

**Re: 3849 Level 3 Certificate in Using and Applying Mathematics (Core Maths)**

Thank you for inviting me to comment on the Core Maths qualification which you intend to submit for accreditation. As previously responsible, at QCA, for the development of the national standards for Key Skills, including application of number, and from my research in this area over many years, I can appreciate the effort that has gone into making sure that this new qualification is fit for purpose.

In my opinion, the qualification is of an appropriate standard for Level 3 and will be attractive to Higher Education in terms of providing prospective students with a sound basis for progression into a range of university courses. I am pleased to note that City & Guilds is intending to work further with employers so as to provide authentic problems that can be used to support teaching and learning, for example to illustrate the qualification's relevance to employment contexts; this will help to engage students and make it more meaningful and motivating to the target group (essential to its success).

As you have acknowledged, the qualification will be challenging to deliver, in particular because the focus is on *application* of mathematics in problem solving and requires the use of a range of different contexts. *Application* raises the level of demand beyond that of the actual methods/techniques (which already include some above GCSE Level). I gather City & Guilds intends to provide a fully supported programme to ensure that 'teachers' (and centre managers) fully understand the *applied* nature of this qualification. Evaluations in the past of similar qualifications have repeatedly shown that the ability of 'teachers' to show students the relevance of what they are learning to their current and future studies, and career plans, is critical in sustaining student interest and raising levels of achievement.

I wish this worthwhile qualification every success in the accreditation process.



Trisha Fettes  
Principal Research Fellow

Trisha Fettes  
Principal Research Fellow  
Centre for Education & Industry  
The University of Warwick  
Coventry CV4 7AL United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)24 7652 4330  
Fax: +44 (0)24 7652 3617  
Email: p.l.fettes@warwick.ac.uk  
Website: www.warwick.ac.uk/cei