Assessment in IGCSE Mathematics 0580

Session 3: Handout 3.7

Analysis of the Examiner Report: Identifying student errors

Look at the Examiner Report that you have been given. Find as many cases of the following as you can and write them down.

- Cases where candidates misread the question
- The type of algebraic errors that occur in questions
- Weak areas in Number work – e.g. reverse percentage problems
- Incorrect use of a calculator (e.g. using GRADS for trigonometry questions)
- Graph work issues – plotting points, joining them, tangents, etc. Interpreting graphs
- Probability and statistics question issues
- Problems with accuracy in the final answer and also premature rounding within the method leading to a final answer
- Issues on drawing and construction questions
- Issues with shape questions – mensuration, trigonometry, transformations
- Misconceptions or other problems that arise year after year

Now answer the following questions:

(1) Do all members in your department have copies or access to the Examiner Report? (Copies can be downloaded from the CIE Teacher Support website.)

(2) Can any of these misconceptions arise from the way you teach the topics?

(3) Do you use Examiner Reports to inform students of common mistakes/ areas where misconceptions occur? *If not, how and when could you use this information to help students?*

(4) Are any of these misconceptions applicable to particular levels of student ability e.g. grade D/E, grade A/B? *If so, what can you do to deal with these misconceptions?*

(5) Is it possible to use information in Examiner Reports to improve student performance in earlier years than the examination year?

(6) To what extent could you incorporate the information from Examiner Reports into your scheme of work and how could you manage this process?