

Mathematics and Further Mathematics Pre-U June 2010

The following question papers for Mathematics and Further Mathematics are the first papers to be taken by Pre-U students at the end of the two-year course. This also means that they are the first live question papers to be set for Pre-U candidates and in common with all new Pre-U examination questions were subjected to the same rigorous question paper setting procedure, involving subject experts and experienced teachers as well as assessment professionals.

Setting a new standard is always a challenging activity for those involved and CIE was aware that Mathematics in particular might be a difficult standard to gauge owing to the wide spread of ability in this subject. Extra work was therefore commissioned to assess the level of difficulty of the examination papers and the outcome reassured CIE that the papers were appropriate for the cohort.

However, it became evident as soon as Paper 1 had been sat that the level of difficulty might have been too high, and this was confirmed after Paper 2 had been taken. The grade boundaries for these papers were set at a level that reflected A level grades A and E at D3 and P3 respectively. Additional statistical analysis led to further work to ensure fairness to all candidates.

CIE is releasing these papers according to its usual practice but would like to point out that future examination papers will include more accessible marks for those in the middle of the distribution.