

To Whom it May Concern

At Kāpiti College we sat the 2nd Day MCAT (Thursday). We were not impressed with the exam at all, and felt it was a major departure from both the standard and previous exams.

We feel that it should not be the place of examiners to set the curriculum, which is very much what it feels like after this exam. Many of the questions were trying to be too clever for their own good. The fact that three questions required to make the link between factorising and the area of a rectangle is not fair on the students.

It has left our students feeling exceptionally discouraged, and many of them are now questioning their mathematical ability, when many of them are actually quite capable. As the first external examination that many of these students will sit, many of them will now have hugely increased levels of anxiety going into their other exams (in all subjects). Many of them spent hours and hours preparing for this exam, and they feel like all the preparation they have done didn't prepare them at all.

For a number of my students (not all by any means, but definitely enough to be of concern), they didn't write anything on the paper, as after reading the first three questions they got to the point where they were so disheartened they gave up. It will be rather difficult for NZQA to scale the mark scheme based on this. Yes they might be able to get the right number of people getting each grade, but it won't necessarily be the ones that should be getting each of the grades.

I guess for us the biggest issues are:

- The exam paper didn't match the standard or expectations based on previous exams
- Examiners should not be the ones setting the curriculum
- Students now feel discouraged and it is likely to impact how they view all of their exams
- Scaling the mark scheme will not ensure the correct students get the correct marks
- The obscure language and trivial contexts were especially harsh on our International students and immigrants.

Kind Regards,
Rob Wood on behalf of the Mathematics Department
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