

19 September 2016

To Frank

I am not sure where is the best place to send a comment. Can you pass this on to whoever is in the hot seat.

Along with most (all?) maths teachers in NZ I am very concerned with the MCAT last week.

1. 1.The exam was so difficult that many students attempted few if any questions. Those who are of a low/middle Achieved level will not have enough material on their scripts to be given anything but a NA - that is unfair
2. It will also be very difficult to distinguish between M and E students if the marking schedule is loosened to get the correct grade profile. There will be a measure of luck associated with which particular question you answered correctly
3. The assesment did not meet the standard (In the Internals we get slaughtered if we even think about diverging slightly - graded 0/8 with no comeback!!)
4. The Thursday paper might have been easier and not parallel(from a comment on the forum and also from Grey High School who had a student sit on Thurs because of an illness on Tue)
5. Perhaps surprisingly I think the whole sorry exercise puts a very strong arguement for external assessments. If it is this difficult for someone who has been selected as an examiner, who is paid, who has the time and who (I assume) has someone checking, to set a high quality assessment - how are classroom teachers expected to do it on no time, no extra pay etc and who have several papers to assess (also throw in reassessments to add to the mix)?

Louise Towers
HoD Mathematics
Principal Nominee
John Paul II High School