



**SET X**

**Level 3 Certificate**  
**MATHEMATICAL STUDIES**

**Paper 2**

**Preliminary material**

**Instructions**

- This preliminary material will be given to you before your exam.
- You must not take annotated preliminary materials into the exam.  
You will be given a clean copy by your teacher.

# Preliminary material Paper 2

## Make schools pay!

*Schools should be fined up to £500 for every student who leaves without achieving at least a grade C in GCSE English or maths.*

*Policy Exchange, Aug 2015*

According to Natasha Porter of the think tank *Policy Exchange*, this money could be put towards the costs of resit classes in further education colleges. This support is needed because:

*Colleges are undertaking a large burden that is, in part, caused by the failure of some elements of the school system to have adequately ensured that 16-year-olds have achieved an appropriate baseline of qualifications.*

These ideas have not found favour with Head Teachers and College Leaders who say that fining schools could be self-defeating and make the situation worse.

*Schools are already facing real-term cuts in their budgets and unprecedented difficulties in recruiting staff, particularly maths teachers. A resit levy would potentially worsen this situation.*

Brian Lightman, General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders

Some of the data that was used by *Policy Exchange* in their report *Crossing the Line* are given in the following tables concerning resits in 2013.

### Resit figures 2013

	Schools	FE Colleges	Sixth Form Colleges
English GCSE	20544	100239	8738
Maths GCSE	27579	110811	11193

It is important to note that 'although schools educated a higher number of post-16 students overall than any other setting, FE colleges had much higher numbers of students who decided to retake maths or English GCSE.'

### Pass rates for resits 2013

Percentages of resitting candidates achieving a grade C or better.

Schools	38%
Colleges	21%

A representative for one of the examination boards pointed out that when discussing the percentages of students achieving particular GCSE grades it must be remembered that the Government's regulator, Ofqual, ensures that the proportions of grades awarded from year to year only changes if the ability of the cohort taking the exam changes. This 'ability' is determined by the cohort's key stage 2 results. In effect, *the quality of work* produced by a cohort in the GCSE exam itself has little or no effect on the number of pupils receiving good grades.