

Education and Innovation Committee

From: Neil French [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 April 2013 5:54 PM
To: Education and Innovation Committee
Subject: Assessment of Mathematics

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Neil French and am currently in my second year of teaching high school mathematics. I would like to comment on what I believe to be an absurd current assessment system. I must add that these sentiments are shared by all the maths teachers I have met but most are grudgingly putting up with it.

Quite frankly I was stunned at the system that is being used now. It may work well for some subjects but not for maths!

It is very time consuming when marking firstly and subject to much personal interpretation. For the sake of consistency alone I believe marks would be way better.

Setting a criteria sheet to match the exam is also causing nightmares for all of the teachers I have met and I believe is causing 'exam quality' to be compromised. Less, not more is being out into our exams.

Last year, at [REDACTED], one of the most experienced maths teachers set an exam for year 10. There was one question set for students to achieve an A under of the Sections. When it was argued by myself and other staff that students should have more than one question to achieve an A it became clear that only one was set by his particular teacher so there could be no argument about what it should graded. You either got it right or wrong. This teacher made the point that "well what if they got 1 out of 2 or 2 out of three etc. , how would you decide what is A standard."

This is just one of the many situations where the new system causes confusion and disillusionment between staff, not to mention the language of these standards allowing the allocation of grades from an A to B to be so manipulable.

Assigning marks would negate all of this absurdity. Why would you change a simple, clear and totally transparent 'marks based system' to what we have now? It is not progress but **Bureaucratic** rubbish!

Regards,

Neil French.
[REDACTED]

Mathematics teacher.