

To: The Education and Innovation Committee eic@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

I have been teaching Mathematics B and C for the last year, and have also taught senior Mathematics for the last 6 years in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. I feel concern about the QSA and some of their approaches to assessment. Below I have outlined some of those concerns:

- (1) When assignments are given, there is the issue of who actually does the assignments. If they are all doing the same task and should get similar or exact results, then plagiarism is harder to detect.
- (2) Students don't necessarily learn enough of the Mathematics concepts/skills by doing long drawn-out assignments. These assignments use up time which could be better spent learning fundamental Mathematical concepts/skills.
- (3) The criteria paragraphs which QSA call standards are open to subjectivity and teachers often have to take a "guess" at what grade to give the students. One teacher might think to give a student a B grade for a question, while another could just as easily give a B-.
- (4) Teachers get penalized by panels if it is shown they are using a number-based marking system to support the standard criteria. I feel that a numerical marking system makes a lot of sense and would minimize the subjectivity that is rife with only criteria-based marking. Not to say though, that there couldn't be a balance between them. I have had experience teaching in the New Zealand system which classifies problems according to their difficulty (Credit, Merit or Excellence), yet still uses a marks based system to support those criteria.
- (5) I would also support state-wide exams set by teams of experienced teachers and discipline experts, in preference to the current system of social moderation. Also, a bank of past exam questions and assessment items would be very useful for teachers designing practice exams. Presently, teachers have to create all exam questions anew which consumes a lot of preparation time.

I appreciate you giving time to reading my submission, and hope that there will be some positive changes

Sincerely,



Rebecca Andrews

