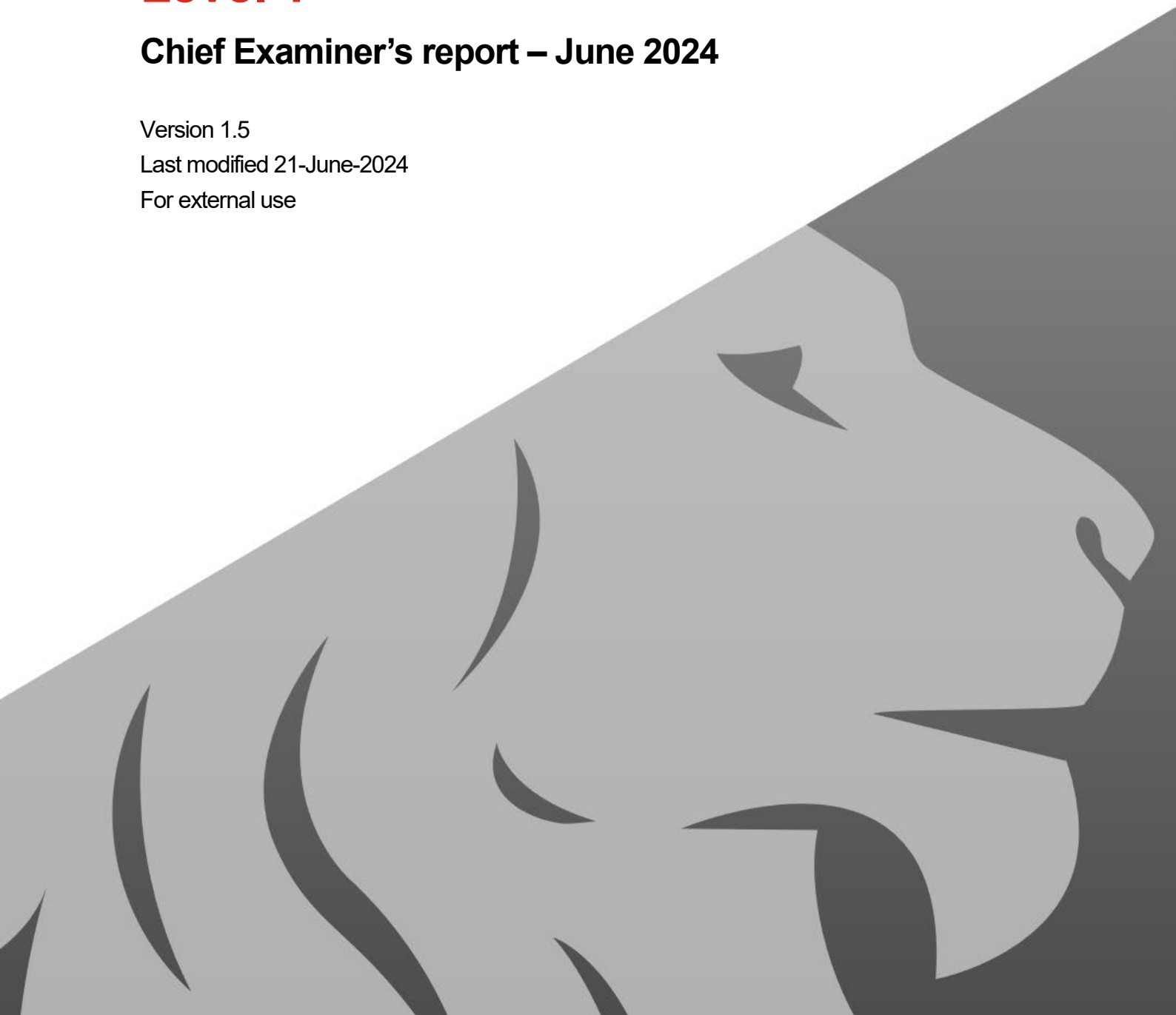# 4800-111 Essential Skills Application of Number Level 1

Chief Examiner's report – June 2024

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Contents

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide centres with feedback on the performance of candidates for 4800-111 Essential Skills Application of Number Level 1.

This report covers the period from November 2023 to April 2024.

2. Overall Performance

2.1. Areas of good performance

The overall performance of candidates was strong, with questions on most topics answered well.

Most candidates continued to draw accurate **scale diagrams**. There was also an improvement in the **labelling** of scale diagrams. There is often one mark available for labelling irrespective of whether the diagram's dimensions are correct.

Candidates successfully **solved problems** by using appropriate **calculations**. Questions involving **money** were answered particularly well. They **extracted data** well from tables and effectively identified the correct calculations to carry out. A large proportion of students achieved full marks for questions requiring the calculation of **averages.**

A good overall standard of answers was maintained for questions requiring the use of **percentages** and **fractions**. The evidence seen across the range of papers shows that the candidates were very confident at using them. **Ratio** is another topic in which candidates performed strongly. Questions where ratios are expressed as words were understood and used correctly by the majority of candidates.

Questions involving the use of **time** were generally answered well. Some students struggled with adding different time periods together to find the time asked for.

A good number of candidates achieved marks for **checking calculations** on most of the Level 1 papers. Most candidates used reverse calculations for these checks but other methods such as those using approximate values can also be used.

The level of performance was very strong on topics such as **reading timetables, extracting information** from menus and tables, **interpreting charts, conversion of metric units** and **interpreting mean**.

Area is a topic where the candidates showed a good level of understanding. Candidates struggled with some questions involving **perimeter**, particularly when the dimensions are given within a sentence rather than shown on a diagram.

Performance on questions involving the **presentation of tables** was good. Most of the marks lost for tables were due to candidates inputting the wrong data into their table. They need to read the instructions carefully and take their time when looking for the correct values to use. Some questions on tables also require the use of units with the values so some candidates lost marks for the omission of these.

2.2. Areas for development

There were a few topics where a high proportion of candidates struggled to achieve full marks:

Probability. Candidates struggled to select an appropriate probability word based on their result. They need to be familiar with all the words used in probability and how they apply to numerical values.

Explanations. Some questions require candidates to make a choice based on their calculations. Most candidates struggled to explain their choices in the one-mark questions that follow. Only a simple explanation is required, usually just reference to a quantity being less or more than needed.

Calculating and Interpreting range. Calculation and interpretation of the range was poorly attempted, with candidates unable to make accurate statements relating to the consistency of data. Many candidates simply referred to the value being high/low without reference to variation or consistency.

3. Recommendations and Advice for Centres

Centres should carefully consider whether a candidate is operating at an appropriate level for entry at Level 1. Unfortunately, there were a small number of candidates who were clearly well below the standard required.

There was a lack of working out shown on a significant number of papers. Candidates who failed to provide a correct answer were, therefore, missing out on compensation marks. It is recommended that the candidates show as much working out as possible.

Some candidates used the extra space for workings and answers at the back of the exam papers. It is advisable that the candidates indicate when they have done this on the relevant answer section of the paper.

Centres should advise candidates about appropriate 'exam technique', particularly with regard to attempting tasks in order. Candidates may attempt tasks in any order and it may be to a candidate's advantage to start with Task 2 or 3 rather than Task 1.

4. Additional Information

Centres should be aware that pass marks may vary from paper to paper as a result of an awarding process undertaken by City & Guilds. Any difference in pass marks reflects the perceived and actual difference in demand of the exam papers, including the source materials and the questions themselves. Therefore, it is possible that two candidates with the same score may have different overall results (pass or fail) if they have taken different versions of papers.