

# Continuously improving our assessments



Find out more about how exams work by listening to our podcast series **Inside Exams** 

### Qualitative data

## Quantitative data



#### Teacher feedback

- Were there any emerging trends on social media?
- What did teachers or students contact us about (positive and negative)?



- Were there any emerging trends during marking, eg students missing questions out?
- Did students respond to questions in the way that we intended?
- Did any of the questions appear more or less demanding than expected?

#### Feedback from AQA teams

- Were there any features of the assessment that made question paper writing or marking more complex than necessary?
- Did Ofqual provide any feedback on our assessments?

### **Inside Exams** Podcast series



Here are some of the types of data we use in our reviews each year.

Each review meeting is:

- organised and run by the Assessment Design Manager
- held for individual specifications and takes place when all the data for the summer is received
- attended by senior examiners and colleagues from across AQA, eg Research, Marking and Curriculum.

#### We use guestion paper functioning reports to determine if the exam questions show the values we would expect. Types of data can include:

Data from the questions

• facility index – a value that tells us how hard or easy a question was

- discrimination index a value that tells us how well an item allowed us to rank students of varying abilities
- item level distributions bar charts that show us how many students scored each mark in a question.

### **Subject trends**

How marking went

- Is the number of students taking the qualification this year (across all awarding bodies) an increase or decrease on last year?
- Is there a trend over time? Is the subject becoming more popular or is it in decline?
- Is the number of students taking the qualification with AQA increasing or decreasing?
- Are there any features of the assessment that could be influencing schools' or students' decision to take the subject?

We look at data to determine if there were any features of the assessment that contributed to marking reliability. Types of data can include:

- seeded items (questions that are planted amongst other question to check examiners' marking) - how often did examiners give it the same mark as the senior examiner?
- review of marking what percentage of scripts had requests for a review of marking. Of those reviews, what percentage had the marks changed?



- Identifies any key areas that need to be addressed within the next year.
- Ensures that we are improving our assessments on an ongoing basis.

