

## Using scales of cognitive demand in a validation study of Cambridge International A and AS Level Economics

Jackie Greatorex, Stuart Shaw, Phineas Hodson, Jo Ireland and Magda Werno

Research Division, Cambridge Assessment and Cambridge International Examinations

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### Summary

The CRAS (Complexity, Resources, Abstractness and Strategy) framework is used to evaluate the cognitive demands of examination questions (Crisp & Novakovic, 2009a, 2009b; Hughes, Pollitt, & Ahmed, 1998; Pollitt, Ahmed, & Crisp, 2007; Pollitt, Hughes, Ahmed, Fisher-Hoch, & Bramley, 1998). Johnson and Mehta (2011) reviewed how CRAS was used; they endorsed some practices and made several recommendations. This article provides an illustration of Johnson and Mehta's (2011) principles for using CRAS in the context of validating examination questions used in Cambridge International A and AS Level Economics, and highlights some advantages and difficulties inherent in their methods. This article is part of our exploration of how to refine the use of CRAS, particularly with multiple choice question papers, with the aim of sharing issues and recommendations.

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