

An international context



CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT

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UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
Local Examinations Syndicate

High-quality textbooks in Mathematics an international context

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The logo consists of three overlapping circles in shades of teal and blue, positioned to the right of the text.

TRIBAL

 UCL
Institute of Education

 MEI
Innovators in
Mathematics
Education

 Science
 NATIONAL
STEM
CENTRE
myscience

Background

- Informal review of primary mathematics textbooks in England on behalf of the DfE
- Textbook Project – evaluation of the use of Singapore textbooks in Year 1 and 2
- Attended the international mathematics textbook conference 2014
- England China Exchange Programme September 2014
- Publication of NCETM textbook guidance January 2015

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/files/21383193/NCETM+Textbook+Guidance.pdf>

Mathematical coherence

Mathematical coherence, both within and across textbook material, is essential in order for mathematical ideas to be connected, so that pupils achieve depth of understanding and make the logical connections necessary in order to progress.

(NCETM Textbook Guidance January 2015)

Conceptually focused, not solely instructionally focused

Highlighting key mathematical structures

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2 \div 1 & = & 2 \\ 20 \div 10 & = & 2 \\ 200 \div 100 & = & 2 \\ 2000 \div 1000 & = & 2 \end{array}$$

Shanghai Textbook Grade 4

$$0.2 \div 0.1 = 2 \div 1 =$$

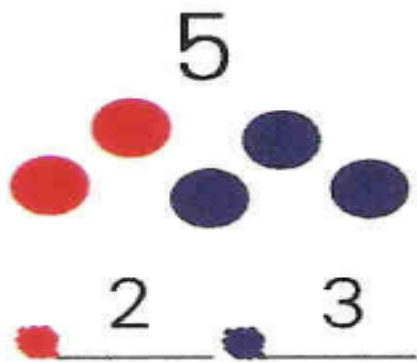
Comparative Research – China and the USA

Sun, X. (2011) “Variation problems” and their roles in the topic of fraction division in Chinese mathematics textbook examples. *Educational Studies in Mathematics*. 76. 65 – 85.

Worthwhile tasks and exercises deepen conceptual understanding and embed procedural fluency.

(NCETM Textbook Guidance 2015)

Representing the mathematics



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Practice makes perfect?

Intelligent practice

In designing [these] exercises, the teacher is advised to avoid mechanical repetition and to create an appropriate path for practising the thinking process with increasing creativity.

Gu, 1991

$2 \times 3 =$

$2 \times 30 =$

$2 \times 300 =$

$20 \times 3 =$

$200 \times 3 =$

$6 \times 7 =$

$6 \times 70 =$

$6 \times 700 =$

$60 \times 7 =$

$600 \times 7 =$

Making Connections
Supports Deep
Learning

Teacher professional development

The textbook should be educative for teachers as well as pupils. It should support teachers' ongoing development of their subject knowledge and their pedagogical practice.

Teachers should understand the design of the textbook and insight into why particular tasks have been included

Interim evaluation of the textbook project

- Developed teacher subject knowledge and pedagogy
- Freed up teacher time in the gathering of ideas for teaching
- Provided a more coherent learning journey



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