we have 3 unopened envelopes remaining there are three possibilities: \( PQRS \) can contain \( QPSR, QRSP \) or \( QSPR \).


G.T.Q.H.

Reviews


The purpose of this book, and its successor Pure mathematics 2, is to provide a complete coverage of the JMB A-level Pure Mathematics syllabus. Book 1 covers the ‘common core’ that has been agreed on by all of the examining boards and so it could therefore be used by any A-level student to study at least part of their course.

The book does not break any new ground in the presentation of mathematics at A-level but follows the well tried and tested text book construction of a short descriptive introduction, followed by examples and then exercises for the student. Most of the points raised in the text are illustrated by three or four examples, but I would like to have seen many more than the ten or so questions that were usually set following each of these examples.

The contents covered by book one are functions; the algebra of polynomials, exponentials and logarithms; series; coordinate geometry; transformation of graphs; trigonometry; vectors; linear relations; inequalities and calculus.

The text is clearly laid out and the use of different type faces, some highlighting of text and computer graphics enhance the look of the book and give it a uniform feel. The book is written to be used linearly from chapter one through to chapter 15 but at the end of the book is a useful page containing details of how each of the chapters interrelate thus enabling the teacher to change the order of use without having to worry about questions involving unknown techniques.

Obviously any book of this kind could form a useful addition to a student or teacher’s library but is unlikely to replace the existing text books being used. Although of course it will be of specific use for those studying the JMB A level.

TOM BUNTING

Hautlieu School, St. Saviour, Jersey C.I.

Three publications from the Spode Group (Oxford University Press, 1986)


This is aimed at pre O-level/CSE candidates and is well worth consideration for those preparing to teach the new GCSE courses. Over forty situations are presented in such areas as ‘sport’, ‘travel’, ‘money’, ‘house design’ etc, and either the necessary data is given or students are invited to suggest (or collect) their own. A number of questions are then posed after a brief discussion. The mathematics required rarely extends beyond basic arithmetic but frequently calls for quite careful analysis on the part of the reader. Solutions, where relevant, are provided but there is a welcome open-endedness which recommends the book as an introduction to project work, especially as photocopying is explicitly allowed.


As its title suggests, this is a collection of ‘real-world’ situations which can be modelled using mathematics well within the range of an averagely competent sixth-former. Divided into the