



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Level 3 Certificate Quantitative Reasoning (MEI)

H866/02 Critical Maths

Insert

Wednesday 23 May 2018 – Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours



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The polygraph

The polygraph is known in everyday language as a lie detector. It measures blood pressure, heart rate, breathing rate and sweating. Someone who is lying is likely to show signs of stress, including changes in these bodily functions.

Of course, taking a lie detector test is itself stressful so interviews include some control questions for comparison purposes.

Someone who is identified as lying by the polygraph has failed the polygraph test. Otherwise, the person has passed the polygraph test.

The British Psychological Society has reported that

- between 42% and 89% of the time, someone who is lying fails the polygraph test (a true positive),
- between 2% and 47% of the time, someone who is telling the truth fails the polygraph test (a false positive).

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