CONFIDENCE MATHEMATICS

Confidence Mathematics

F.E. Penketh

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Preface

A book is no substitute for a teacher; it cannot replace the rapport between teacher and student and between student and student, or question and answer sessions and, perhaps most of all, it cannot replace the knowledge a teacher has gleaned about the abilities, strengths, weaknesses and difficulties of each student.

Many students have not enjoyed much success with mathematics and some are positively afraid whenever the subject is mentioned. The aim of this book is to try and help these students achieve some success and hope that it will then encourage them to strive for further success at a different level. To this end, the flavour of the book will be found in the topics suggested, the many worked examples and the large number of questions in the exercises of each chapter. The exercises can be completed successfully once the text is understood; there are no trick questions or ones demanding knowledge not already gained.

Due emphasis has been placed on counting and measuring because these are of paramount importance in mathematics and yet as teachers we are continually baffled by the inability of students who have mastered the techniques and skills to transfer this knowledge to employment and everyday life. It is hoped that this book, with its emphasis on certain areas and using numerous examples, will help in this transition.

Use has been made of many outside agencies to present up-to-date information and statistics, and mention must be made especially of Casio Electronics Company Ltd, HMSO, the Automobile Association, British Rail, Townsend Thoresen, Ribble Bus Company, Midland Bank Review, Sun Alliance Insurance Group, Barratts the Builders, and *Market Research Review*. I apologise if anyone has been missed out inadvertently and any omission will be put right at the earliest opportunity.

I should like to thank Mr John Winckler of Macmillan Education and his advisers and helpers for their help and support in writing the book; Mr Jack Topping for his guidance on one chapter; Miss Heather Turner; Mrs Madge Nelson for deciphering my scrawl and typing the manuscript; Mr Graham Penketh for proof reading and checking the answers; and my wife, Margaret, for her patience and understanding over the months in which this book was written.

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