## CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES IN TEXT	ix
LIST OF TABLES IN APPENDIX	xiv
LIST OF FIGURES IN TEXT	×v
LIST OF FIGURES IN APPENDIX	xvi
FOREWORD	xvii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xix
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE	1
CHAPTER II SCOPE AND GENERAL METHOD	4
1. The Population of A-level Candidates 2. A-level Performance: the Criterion Variable 3. Predictor Variables	4 5 5
<ul> <li>(a) Schools</li> <li>(b) Home Background</li> <li>(c) Mental Ability at Entry to Secondary School</li> <li>(d) Sex of Pupil</li> <li>(e) Performance at O-level</li> <li>(f) Number of A-levels at One Sitting</li> <li>(g) Examining Board</li> <li>(h) Year of Examination</li> </ul>	6 10 12 12 12 12 12 13

CHAPTER III SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE A-LEVEL CANDIDATES	
BROUGHT UNDER REVIEW	14
A. Characteristics of the Total Population of 'Academic' Candidates in 1973 in England and Wales	14
1. Proportions of Sexes	14
<ol> <li>Population Values for A-level Scores</li> <li>Sex Differences in Performance in the Total Population</li> </ol>	15 16
4. School-type Differences	18
B. Characteristics of Candidates from Sample Schools	20
1. Total Numbers and Proportions of the Sexes	20
2. Mean A-level Score by Subject and School-type in Sample Schools	21
3. Distributions of Variables	22
(a) Socio-economic Status	22
(b) Mental Ability (c) Criterion Score	22 22
CHAPTER IV	
SOME SINGLE VARIABLE CORRELATES	27
1. A-level Performance in Certain Mental Ability Groupings	27
2. A-level Performance in Different Socio-economic Groupings	33
3. Sex Differences in Performance in Sample Schools	34
MULTIVARIATE ANALYSES	39
A. Some Preliminary Considerations	39
1. Pre-operations on Variables	39 40
<ol> <li>Comparability of Examination Standards</li> <li>Order of inclusion of predictor variables</li> </ol>	40 43

Contents	víi
B. Multiple Regression Analyses	43
<ol> <li>Biology</li> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Physics</li> <li>Mathematics</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>English</li> <li>History</li> <li>French</li> </ol>	43 46 48 50 52 54 56 58
C. Discussion	60
CHAPTER VI EFFECTS OF VARYING THE COMPOSITION OF THE SAMPLE	64
1. Analyses of Data Excluding Schools Taking London	64
Board Examinations 2. Analyses of Data from Schools Taking Joint Matricula-	65
tion Board Examinations 3. Analyses of Data from Sample Excluding Certain	74
Schools 4. Conclusions Drawn from the Results of Varying the Composition of the Sample	74
CHAPTER VII FURTHER ANALYSES	79
<ol> <li>Prediction from O-level to A-level</li> <li>Performance of Candidates Taking Two A-levels Compared with those Taking Three or More A-levels</li> </ol>	79 84
CHAPTER VIII SUMMARY	88
APPENDIX NOTES ON STATISTICAL METHODS	91
A. Method of Estimating Scholastic Ability at 11	91

Contents	

B. Multivariate Methods	95
1. Canonical Analysis	95
2. Dummy Variables	96
3. Multiple Regression Analyses	101
REFERENCES	135