

Principal Assessor Report 2002

Assessment Panel

Social Sciences

Qualification area

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
included in this report**

**Sociology
Intermediate 1**

Statistical Information: update

Number of entries in 2001	
Pre appeal	
Post appeal	1

Number of entries in 2002	
Pre appeal	8
Post appeal	

General comments re entry numbers

2002 saw an increase of 7 candidates but, overall, numbers remaining disappointing.

General comments

It is difficult to make any meaningful comment on such small entry numbers.

Grade Boundaries at C, B and A for each subject area included in the report

Maximum mark	60
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Grade A	42
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Grade B	36
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Grade C	30
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General commentary on grade boundaries

Notional percentage cut-offs for each grade

Question papers and their associated marking schemes are designed to be of the required standard and to meet the assessment specification for the subject/level concerned.

For National courses the examination paper(s) are set in order that a score of approximately 50% of the total marks for all components merits a grade C (based on the grade descriptions for that grade), and similarly a score of 70 % for a grade A. The lowest mark for a grade B is set by the computer software as half way between the C and A grade boundaries.

General commentary on grade boundaries

Notional percentage cut-offs for each grade

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

This was an exceptional group who appeared to know the syllabus well and who wrote consistently good answers.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

Candidates did well across the range of questions.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

- To gain a good pass, candidates need to write well across both sections of the paper. The paper samples from all three units at Intermediate 1 Sociology and therefore candidates must be prepared to answer from any part of the syllabus.
- Candidates need to write full answers, e.g. full marks cannot be awarded to one-word answers when candidates are asked to describe something. Elaboration and exemplification are always welcome - within the limits of time and space.
- Candidates should be reminded that questions will be drawn from all three Intermediate 1 units and will sample across outcomes. This means they should know and understand the whole syllabus rather than just concentrating on a particular aspect.
- Candidates need to practice writing sample answers for questions that demand expanded answers.