

Principal Assessor Report 2002

Assessment Panel:

Financial Services and Accounting

Qualification area

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

Accounting and Finance — Intermediate 1

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2001	
Pre appeal	421
Post appeal	423

Number of entries in 2002	
Pre appeal	392
Post appeal	

General comments re entry numbers

Decrease of 29.

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

A	47/60
B	41/60
C	35/60

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.

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

Grade boundaries are higher than last year, due primarily to the lower level of Question 1 on petty cash which resulted in high marks for almost all candidates. Question 1 provided 25% of the overall mark.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Candidates tackled this exam very well indeed. There were only a limited number of very poor candidates and most completed the required four questions. In many instances they displayed better knowledge of common areas than some of those candidates entered for Intermediate 2.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

Question 1 — petty cash
Question 2 — trading and profit and loss
Question 5 — cash budget

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

None

Areas of common misunderstanding

None

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

This paper was well done.

Candidates coped very well with this paper and displayed a higher degree of competence than in previous years.

The only areas of relative weakness were confusing fixed and variable costs in Question 3 and explaining capital expenditure in Question 4. Of the choice questions, Question 6 was the poorest.