Principal Assessor Report 2002

Assessment Panel:	**Travel and Tourism**

Qualification area

Subject(s) and Level(s) included in this report	**Travel and Tourism Intermediate 1**

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2001	
Pre appeal	
Post appeal	501

Number of entries in 2002	
Pre appeal	542
Post appeal	

General comments re entry numbers

The number of candidates has increased again this year - but by a more modest 8%.

It is difficult to say if numbers are levelling off and that this is the level at which presentations will be sustained. Many centres are still experimenting with subject-choice/option-columns and it may take some years for a reliable pattern to emerge for candidates at the Intermediate 1 level.

General comments

The setting team for 2002 were conscious that the paper for 2001 was rated as relatively easy to pass when compared to other Intermediate 1 papers. This paper was constructed in an attempt to reflect more consistently the average standard of such papers.

The marking team were similarly aware of the necessity to reflect the average standard of Intermediate 1 papers and marked accordingly throughout the period of central marking.

As we have come to expect, candidates performed very well, in general. The high standards of performance were probably still due to the reasons that have been highlighted in previous years: Some candidates could be presented for Intermediate 2 but for various reasons are presented for Intermediate 1.

Candidates are being prepared well for the examination in most centres.

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

Maximum mark – 50

2002: A – 32 marks; B – 27 marks: C – 23 marks

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

The grade boundaries were set marginally below the 'a priori' position this year. The paper this year reflected the experience gained in the two previous years.

A gradual move to the 'a priori' scores should be achieved over the next few years as the subject becomes more established and the candidature more stable.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

The range of marks was from 4 to 47 out of a maximum of 50. This indicates that it was a paper, which allowed good candidates to do well and which was also able to sort the candidates into different levels of ability.

The fact that half of the candidates achieved an A pass indicates a general high ability and good level of preparation.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

Markers' comments on good candidate performance made reference to all questions. Particular satisfaction was expressed about Question 2 and the areas of Mapping, Information about Destinations and travel information. Many candidates have sophisticated knowledge and up-to-the-minute information about the competition for custom in the travel market within the UK - and the use of internet booking procedures.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

Some candidates are not trained properly in the mapping exercises or, which is more probable, did not have access to an atlas during the examination. Similarly, there is evidence, from poor performance in money conversion and journey time calculations, that some candidates do not have access to a calculator during the examination.

The completion of the booking form in Question 3 was done better this year but many candidates do not make full use of the resources to do this.

Areas of common misunderstanding

Some candidates were not aware of the introduction of the Euro as the currency for France.

Many candidates do not follow the instructions for plotting destinations on the maps in Question 4 and Question 5 and consequently lose marks unnecessarily here.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

- Ensure candidates have access to an Upper School Atlas during the examination.
- Ensure candidates have access to a calculator during the examination.
- Use resources provided to complete ALL blanks in the Booking Form – if this question is included.
- Candidates in some centres are neither accurate enough nor do they follow the correct procedures when plotting destinations in mapwork questions.