

Moderation Feedback – Visiting/Central - 2005

Qualification area

Engineering

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

HN units in Electronics and Instrumentation

General comments on moderation activity

The moderation activity in this group, for session 2004/5, consists of 4 areas as follows:

1 Visiting HN Moderation: 12 centres were visited ranging from mainland, mainstream colleges to the Shetlands and the Middle East. Only 1 centre had a hold applied, which was subsequently lifted after corrective action taken. The units sampled were mainly tried and tested units with most centres being experienced in delivering these units. Consequently, no real major issues were identified as most centres have comprehensive IV systems in place with master folders for most units comprising all teaching and assessment material. The main area where centres require to do further work is in the provision of marking schemes or guidelines. Some were comprehensive but in other centres scant “model answers” were only available allowing varying degrees of interpretation. Another area where centres need to exercise greater care is in applying marking schemes to student responses as external moderators picked up some mistakes. Internal moderators should pick these up.

2 Central Moderation of HN Graded Unit DG2T 34: This unit is part of the new HNC Electronics award currently running in 3 centres. Central moderation of this unit was carried out in order to ensure consistency of marking across all centres. This also proved to be a good training event for the moderation team. A separate report was completed after this event for the Qualification Support Team for this award. All centres used the same exam paper and marking scheme, which simplified the moderation process at this event. Challenges will occur in the future if centres use different exam papers.

Specific issues identified

1 Due to the nature of the enrolment and registration process, it is often difficult to get an accurate picture of what each centre is delivering. On most occasions, external moderators have to rely on information from centres.

2 Most of the external moderation activities for session 2004/5, involved tried and tested units and assessments where most problems have been ironed out by now. However, challenges will arise in the coming sessions, with the introduction of the new HN engineering framework.

Feedback to centres

1 The role of assessment exemplars for HN units and the role of prior moderation needs to be reinforced or clarified for centres.

2 All centres continually strive to improve the performance of candidates and it may be helpful to centres to remind them of the part that moderation can take in this important area of quality improvement.

3 Centres are generally well versed in SQA procedures. However, there might be a case for introducing a “best practice” document with regard to internal moderation. HMIe identify “best practice” areas in their reports and the information is useful to centres. “Best practice” identified in external moderation reports may also be of use to centres if placed on the SQA website or in a document.