



# **Internal Assessment Report: Modern Studies**

Sector Panel or SSC:

Modern Studies

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

# National Units

## Titles/levels of National Units verified

DV54 12/11/10/9 International Issues

### General comments

In order to clarify this year's verification activity, four areas were identified:

- ◆ issues of validity arising from the central event
- ◆ issues of communication with SQA
- ◆ development activity: visits and support
- ◆ future implications

### Issues of validity arising from central event

The International Unit was verified at Higher, Intermediate 2, Intermediate 1 and Access levels.

The verifiers confirmed that the vast majority of centres verified are working to the National Standard. In these cases it was recognised that candidates had been entered at the correct level. The most recent edition of the National Assessment Bank (NAB) assessments had been applied and marked at an appropriate and consistent standard.

Thorough assessment was indicated by full documentation.

In some cases there was evidence of first-class delivery of the subject, which invariably included excellent feedback to candidates.

Only two centres were given 'Not Accepted'. One centre sent in photocopies which the verifiers could not read, and another had used a candidate's work as marking instructions.

### Issues of communication

Modern Studies requires regular updating of materials including assessments, so it is vital that centres use the most recent edition of the assessment items.

The responsibility is on practitioners to check SQA documentation which provides the necessary guidance for accurate assessment. Guidelines are available in all centres and on SQA's website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk). If centre staff have any questions, the Qualifications Manager and Officer, the verification unit and verification team can all be contacted for advice and support.

Each centre's SQA Coordinator has access to NAB items. The verification team was delighted to note that no outdated NABs were used.

Verification Form MSOO should be carefully completed as it is vital to the verification process.

Photocopies are acceptable for verification. However, the verification team would much rather have the originals sent.

Evidence for verification is only required for those candidates whose names are on Form MSOO.

The verifiers continue to emphasise that if any centre encounters difficulties in the course of the year, they should get in touch with the Qualifications Manager or the verification unit at the earliest opportunity, to allow support mechanisms to be put in place.

### **Development activity: visits and support**

The increased uptake of Intermediate raised a number of issues. It is essential that candidates are entered at the correct level. Centres are reminded that materials and advice for Access level 3 can be found on SQA's website.

Those centres which are delivering Courses autonomously or without regular communication with other practitioners may wish to communicate with the verification team or request a development visit.

LT Scotland has provided and continues to provide support materials.

The verification team is more than willing to visit centres, and requests should be made to the verification unit. Visits have been made this year, and feedback from centres has been very positive.

### **Summary of advice to centres**

The following should be noted:

- ◆ Good quality feedback to candidates indicates good practice.
- ◆ It is vital that centres keep up-to-date with regulations and procedures.
- ◆ Centres must use the most up-to-date editions of NABs.
- ◆ Centres should only use the permitted time allocated for NAB delivery.
- ◆ Although photocopies are acceptable, the verification team do not recommend their use.
- ◆ Full documentation is required within the verification package.
- ◆ It is good practice to identify the NABs being used.
- ◆ The verification team can be contacted for support or clarification of any issue.
- ◆ Development visits, for which a charge will be made, can be requested by any centre.
- ◆ Support materials can be found on the LT Scotland website.

## **Advice on good practice and areas for further development**

### **Benefit of internal verification of standards in centres**

There is continued evidence that shows that those centres that apply cross marking are far more likely to achieve consistency with National Standards.

### **Marking procedures**

Materials that have been verified show a wide range of practices in the process of marking and correction. Candidates who require reassessment will benefit greatly from clear indicators showing areas not only of weakness but also of strength.

### **Security of assessment**

Some centres would like to see verifiers adding comments to materials that have been verified. However, it is SQA policy that comments should not be added to individual scripts. Comments are given to centres on feedback forms.