



Internal Assessment Report: Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Sector Panel or SSC: Religious, Moral and Philosophical 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

A total of 29 centres were verified. Units at the following levels were included in the sample:

Intermediate 1 and 2 — DM3K 10, DM3L 10, D408 11, D409 11, D412 11

Higher — D412 12, D414 12, D415 12

Advanced Higher Units

General comments

The centres selected for verification displayed a good knowledge of the Unit specifications and the appropriate documentation required for the verification exercise. It is always good practice to read these assessment and advice documents each year as they may have been refined or contain minor changes.

Verifiers found clear evidence of the following general trends:

- ◆ The majority of candidates were presented at the appropriate levels.
- ◆ Assessors had allocated the appropriate marks on candidates' scripts. The weighting of marks between (a) knowledge and understanding and (b) analysis and evaluation was clear and informed the candidates of their progress in both areas.
- ◆ There was stronger evidence of analysis and evaluation within the candidates' scripts than in 2008.
- ◆ Buddhism and The Existence of God remain the most popular topics. However, there was an increase in the number of candidates studying Islam in the 2009 sample.
- ◆ Evidence of internal verification procedures such as cross marking or departmental collaborative practice, though improved since last year, remains an issue for the majority of the centres.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development

Effective candidate feedback remains an area for further development at both Intermediate and Higher levels. There were some examples of centres giving good feedback to candidates, but this remains an area for further development for the majority of centres. It is important that centres develop their marking procedures to demonstrate clearly the allocation and weighting of marks, not only for verification procedures but to inform candidates of their progress.

The quality of evidence at Advanced Higher level continues to improve and include the necessary knowledge base and critical analysis. A few centres showed exemplary practice in analysis and evaluation within candidates' essays and in the high-quality feedback sheets given to candidates to inform them of their progress in the subject.

There was evidence of an improvement in centres' internal verification procedures, but this is still an area for further development for the majority of centres. It is clear from central verification events that centres reach higher levels of consistency and achievement, as measured by the National Standards, when good internal verification procedures are applied, for example cross marking or departmental discussions to review candidate progress.