



Internal Assessment Report: Electrical Engineering (VG 419)

Sector Panel or SSC: Engineering

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

D132 11 — Electrical Fundamentals

D133 11 — Semiconductor Applications

D134 11 — Combinational Logic

General comments

Of the four centres externally verified, two were high schools and the other two were private centres. Three of the centres used NAB materials while one centre used its own internally developed assessment materials. The External Verifier deployed to the four centres accepted the nine Units he verified.

External verification focused entirely on the three NQ Units making up the Course Electronic and Electrical Fundamentals at Intermediate 2. In session 2007–08, SQA commissioned the writing of new NABs for the three NQ Units to reflect more closely the standard of the Electronic and Electrical Fundamentals Intermediate 2 external assessment as it is now. Unfortunately, these NABs have still to be published by SQA, but SQA had given permission for the draft versions to be used in centre. It appears that the External Verifier visiting the centre was not aware of these new NABs, which led to a little confusion between the verifier and centre staff.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development

The following good practice points were identified during external verification:

- ◆ All materials required for external verification were made available to the External Verifier.
- ◆ Candidate work was generally satisfactory and marking was appropriate.
- ◆ In one centre, the External Verifier observed that the teacher had a real enthusiasm for his subject and had a good rapport with his students.
- ◆ In some centres, robust internal verification procedures were applied regularly and consistently.
- ◆ In one centre, the use of a candidate workbook was identified by the External Verifier as an example of good practice, but this should be expanded in a more structured way to become a truly working document, rather than being applied to summative assessment only.

The following points were identified for further development:

- ◆ In some centres, internal verification needs to be operated in a more formal and robust manner.
- ◆ When using internally devised assessments, centres should avoid over-assessing their candidates.
- ◆ More use should be made of checklists and log books when candidates are carrying out practical activities.
- ◆ SQA should publish the new NABs for the three NQ Units as soon as possible.