



Internal Assessment Report 2010: Sheet Plate and Welding (218)

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

Higher National Units

General comments

Based on the feedback from the one centre visited in 2009–10, the centre had a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of national standards. This was fully reflected in the standard of the assessments presented for external verification. There was strong evidence that the centre placed a high priority around national standards and ensured that these were being met.

Based on the feedback from the one centre visited in 2009–10, assessors are familiar with all assessment materials associated with the two Units verified. They had identified scope for producing alternative assessment materials, and this was discussed during their external verification visit.

Based on the feedback from the one centre visited in 2009–10, there was clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements for the Units verified. Candidates produced good quality assessment materials which reflected well on the centre's understanding of Evidence Requirements.

Administration arrangements were good, with supporting procedures and documentation. Robust IV procedures ensured assessments were carried out appropriately and standards were being fully met. The centre made good use of well designed marking schemes.

There were no opportunities to record candidate feedback due to there only being one visit to one centre.

Areas of good practice

Because only one centre was visited in the year, benchmarking of good practice was difficult. However, the centre visited demonstrated good practice through the use of team work in assessing practical tasks.

Higher National Graded Units

Titles/levels of HN Graded Units verified

DR37 34: Fabrication, Welding and Inspection

General comments

The Graded Unit is an exam-based assessment. Evidence from the papers submitted suggested that some centres should be aware of the need to ensure that the award of marks to candidates takes account of the required level for Higher National qualifications. This only applied in a minority of cases and was not a general theme.

Assessors were fully aware of and familiar with all aspects of the Unit specification. This was fully reflected in the design of the final exam paper and associated exemplar/sample responses.

The exam papers set by the centres fully reflected a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements of the Unit. Exam questions ensured full coverage of the required technical knowledge and understanding for the successful achievement of the Unit. Questions were set at the correct level to maximise good levels of responses from candidates.

As previously stated, the assessment for this Graded Unit is exam-based. Centres had appropriate arrangements in place for the administration and setting of exams. The internal verification process incorporated the use of team marking, which ensured constancy in candidate marking across the centre. In some cases, the marker's judgement of candidates' responses was questionable. This was reported in the central moderation feedback sessions.

In some cases, centres did not complete SQA standard paperwork correctly, leading to issues at central moderation.

It was agreed at the central moderation event that some centres would benefit from a review of their current specific marking guidelines and exemplar materials for their Graded Unit exam. This would ensure a more robust marking process, which in turn would ensure that the level of candidates' work was appropriate to a Higher National qualification.

Areas of good practice

The Fabrication and Welding sector had formed a consortium of colleges with a common interest in this Graded Unit. This resulted in a standard paper being set, which led to a consistent approach to question design and coverage. This also led to a centrally established resource base for the delivery of teaching materials and formative assessment materials.

Areas for improvement

As previously identified, improvements could be made in the following areas:

- ◆ Design of marking schemes
- ◆ Detail of sample responses
- ◆ Judgement of the appropriateness and level of candidates' responses at Higher National level