



Internal Assessment Report: Technological Studies

Assessment Panel: Technical Education

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

D186: Applied Electronics (Higher and Intermediate 2)	Central
D187: Systems and Control (Advanced Higher and Higher)	Central
D190: Structures and Materials (Higher and Advanced Higher)	Central
D185: Energy (Intermediate 2)	Central

Feedback to centres

General comments

NQ Unit	No. of centres	No. of pupils	'Accepted' groups	'Not Accepted' groups
186 Applied Electronics	5	56	3 Int 2, 4 H	1 Int 2
187 Systems and Control	3	28	2 H, 1 AH	1 H
190 Structures and Materials	4	31	3 H, 1 AH	1 H
185 Energy	3	14	3 Int 2	0

(Note: the verification sample from a centre may contain groups of any, or all, of the three levels.)

The improvement in the standard of assessment from centres was maintained, as around 80% of the sample came into the 'Accepted' category at initial verification, compared to often less than 50% in previous years.

Failure to use the assessment procedures in the re-issued NABs and detailed evidence for the Practical Activity were the main reasons for non-acceptance.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development

Centres which came into the 'Accepted' category in this year's verification event again submitted evidence of a very high standard, which was well presented and competently assessed using the current issue of the NAB material.

The Technological Studies Data booklets were re-issued for use from the start of the 2008–09 session. They should be used in conjunction with the re-issued NABs.

Centres should also be aware that copies of all NAB material used for every candidate assessment should be included with the material sent to SQA if the centre is selected for verification.

It is worth emphasising again that help aimed at the Practical Activity instrument of assessment in Electronic Systems and Systems and Control is available on SQA's website under Exemplification of Standards for Technological Studies. It is in the form of exemplar problem scenarios for all three levels. They are intended to give guidance on difficulty for each level and are not intended to be the problems which every centre uses with every candidate. A range of topics for each class is the requirement — around a minimum of one topic for every three pupils.

Note also the 'Evaluation' section of the Practical Activity recording should be a range of comments relating the performance of the problem solution to the specification, not a description of its construction.