



Higher National and Vocational Qualifications Internal Assessment Report 2012

Engineering Systems

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

Higher National Units

General comments

There was only a single external verification visit carried out within this cognate group for session 2011–12. It follows that no conclusions can be drawn that can be applied to all delivering centres.

Six centres were required to submit Graded Unit material for central verification. All were considered to meet national standards.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

From the material reviewed at both types of verification events, it is apparent that assessors are familiar with Unit specifications and exemplification materials. In some instances a number of centres' Graded Unit papers required to be edited to provide clarity for candidates.

Evidence Requirements

There was a single instance of a lack of clarity regarding the documentation of candidate Evidence Requirements which resulted in a medium-level risk. The action raised was completed successfully and the risk level set to low.

Administration of assessments

The single external visit carried out identified that the centre administered assessments effectively.

The Graded Unit papers submitted were all supported by appropriate documentation.

General feedback

The comments of markers included in some Graded Unit scripts proved helpful at the central verification event. It is difficult to evaluate how much use candidates would make of this feedback.

No candidates were interviewed this session.

Areas of good practice

From the EV visit:

'Engineering Communication Unit, PowerPoint presentations — typed 'narrative' used to support each slide, includes background details and 'spoken' text in different colours. Final 'typed sheet' includes candidate's preparation on possible questions with solutions.'

Specific areas for improvement

Centres should ensure that second marking is clearly shown on candidates' Graded Unit scripts that have been sampled for internal verification.

Higher National Graded Units

Titles/levels of HN Graded Units verified:

DW92 34	HNC Engineering Practice
DW11 34	HNC Engineering Systems

General comments

The Graded Unit papers produced through the consortium approach adopted by many centres indicate that the requirements of national standards are understood. However, papers submitted by centres for prior verification continue to be more difficult to process than they should be.

Although there is now a requirement for the material to be internally verified before submission, it appears that this is not always as thorough as it might be. This typically results in the presence of typographical errors and incorrect Unit abbreviations within papers, resulting in delays and frustration.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Overall, assessors appear to be familiar with Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplars.

Evidence Requirements

From the evidence of the sampled candidates' scripts, there is a clear understanding of Evidence Requirements.

Administration of assessments

Internal verification documentation was provided with each centre's submissions for the central verification event.

General feedback

A recurring issue with any examination is the use made of given feedback by successful candidates, who are typically content to know the result. Unsuccessful candidates could benefit from written and verbal feedback so comments on scripts should prove useful.

Areas of good practice

Clearly indicated second marking should be standard practice on scripts sampled for internal verification.

Good practice noted this session was the inclusion on scripts, where valid, of a justification of the decision by the markers to modify a mark or grade.

Specific areas for improvement

All centres should ensure that second marking is clearly shown on candidates' Graded Unit scripts that have been sampled for internal verification.

Additionally, it is beneficial if the second marker's decisions are recorded in a different colour from those of the first marker on the scripts.