



**Standard Grade 2012
Internal Assessment Report
Physics**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Standard Grade qualifications in this subject.

Standard Grade

Titles/levels of Standard Grade qualifications verified:

Physics — Practical Abilities

General comments

All of the centres verified were found to have satisfactorily applied the marking criteria to the investigations.

The performance of centres in their marking of the investigations showed a high level of competence, with occasional evidence of cross-verification indicated on the sampled candidates' investigations.

Administration of assessments

20% of the total number of centres tested were 'Not Accepted'.

These Not Accepted results arose from:

- ◆ Centres with identified arithmetic errors in totalling candidates' marks.
- ◆ One centre with identified arithmetic errors and incomplete evidence supplied of practical technique completion.

The proportion of centres failing because of arithmetic errors in the totalling of marks for candidates was disappointing. Errors in arithmetic totals may result in candidates not achieving the Practical Ability grade which is merited.

Areas of good practice

There was a wide range of acceptable investigation topics used by centres which fulfilled the requirements for the internal assessment of Practical Abilities, as detailed in the Standard Grade Revised Arrangements in Physics.

Some centres showed *clear* evidence on the investigations of cross-marking, and of decisions being finalised where there was internal disagreement within the centre. These centres had a notable satisfactory completion of the verification process.

Some centres occasionally provided additional information on the reverse of the candidate flysheet, eg explaining why a candidate had not completed some practical techniques.

Specific areas for improvement

The addition of marks awarded in an investigation must be carried out carefully, to allow candidates to receive their deserved Practical Abilities grade.

Centres are advised to double check the arithmetic totals for candidates in their investigations, and, where possible, have the investigations cross-checked internally for any marking or addition errors.

Centres are advised to carefully check the instructions for the submission of evidence when called upon for verification. Failure to submit correct information before the verification event could result in delays to the certification of candidates.

The evidence for practical techniques should be carefully completed without any ambiguity as to whether a candidate has been offered the opportunity to pass a given technique. None of the entries in the record of techniques attempted should be left blank without a comment. Teacher comments, on the reverse of the candidate's flysheet, should indicate reasons for any candidate not attempting some techniques (eg persistent absence, illness, etc.).

When marking candidates' investigations, teachers should make sure that a definite mark (eg a zero or a 1) is *always* entered into the mark box for each investigative skills objective. This removes any doubt or ambiguity as to the marking intention.

Some candidates attempted to complete graphs with only three data points. This is clearly not best practice as it is difficult to show a line or curve of best fit. Also, graphs should be of a suitable *size* to demonstrate accurate scales and plotting of points.