



Higher National Qualifications

And

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Internal Assessment Report

2008

Subject: Politics

Date: 26/8/08

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

HIGHER NATIONAL UNITS

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

Insert details relating to specific guidance which should be offered to centres based on the verification of centres.

Include:

- *General comments*
- *Areas of good practice*
- *Areas for further development*

General comments:

Although the number of external verifications was limited this session, what was undertaken was very positive. There is a good high standard of student response across the sector with good quality systems in place ensuring internal verification and crossmarking, internal verification and course team meetings.

Students were also very positive and enthusiastic indicating a positive and enjoyable learning process in the various centres when they were available.

In general terms, there appears to be a need for a mechanism to be introduced to ensure that any action points raised during a verification visit have been implemented prior to the next external verification. It would be beneficial if relevant College Coordinators could be tasked with ensuring that development points have been actioned.

It has been noted that some centres are including politics units in non-social science awards. Whilst this is a welcome development, there is concern due to variable student responses which are often quite poor, but are being credited by the centres.

There is a general consensus throughout the sector that there is a need for the politics HN programme to be re-written. There is particular concern over the present A unit. Feedback from participating centres is unanimously condemnatory of this unit. There is also a view that the B unit is not really appropriate for HN level politics. There is also a general concern that the present leveling of units can be quite artificial.

Another concern is the present assessment strategy. It would be helpful if SQA could revisit the assessment strategies for HN units. Different assessment strategies appear to be posing particular problems for centres.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

There is sufficient evidence from centres as to the necessity of continuous internal verification record keeping to preserve the integrity of consistency in both achievement and assessment decisions.

Student feedback continues to be a rich source of self-assessment by centres and the development of formal and informal self-assessment strategies for both staff and students appear to be beneficial.

IT and VLE systems are popular with students who comment on their promotion of learning.

However, as noted above, the most pressing area for further development is the teaching units themselves. SQA should address the present unit content as a matter of priority.

HIGHER NATIONAL GRADED UNITS

TITLES/LEVELS OF HN GRADED UNITS VERIFIED

Insert details below

DP55 34 Political Theories of the State and the Individual

DP56 34 The Governance of the United Kingdom

DP57 35 The Political System of the United States

D7PT 35 Devolved Government in the UK Context

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- *Areas of good practice*
- *Areas for further development*

General comments:

In general centres were delivering and assessing to a good high standard as was evident from student responses. IV procedures involved noting and analyzing programme and unit achievement and exchanging ideas on teaching, learning and assessment. Such procedures resulted in action points with timings attached.

IV meetings were also used to identify problematic student performance which was then used to identify problem areas and help facilitate student success.

As noted above, staff and student self-evaluation processes also identified problems and were utilized to promote solutions for successful learning and achievement.

Good record keeping is improving along with the development of IT and VLE strategies.

Further development strategies were noted above.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

SVQ AWARDS

TITLES/LEVELS OF SVQ AWARDS VERIFIED

Insert details below

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General comments:

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

NATIONAL UNITS

(i.e. Freestanding units which contribute to NPAs or NCs etc.)

TITLES/LEVELS OF NATIONAL UNITS VERIFIED

Insert details below

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

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Include:

- *General comments*
- *Areas of good practice*
- *Areas for further development*

General comments:

Advice on good practice and areas for further development: