Higher National Qualifications

And

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Senior Verifier Report

2008

Subject: Psychology

Sector Panel or SSC: Social Sciences

Date: 19/8/08

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:

Psychology A DP43 34
Psychology B DP44 34
Psychology C DP45 35, D7J8 35
Psychology D DP46 35, D7J9 35

Centres were using the new HN award from Aug 2007. It was still the case that second year subjects could be from previous versions. Next session all centres will be delivering the newest Units for yr 2 HND.

In the main Centres provided paperwork that was well laid out, clear and helpful. There is an increase in understanding of requirements of Units and good preparation of candidates evident in their responses.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

It was good to see evidence on candidate scripts (or in the form of checklists) that Internal Verification has been carried out.

Centres organised paperwork well for visits, making it easy to work through the materials provided.

It was clear in most cases that Centres had been given appropriate input on topics, which was clear from the detailed answers, showing understanding, using a range of examples and a range of material.

Remediation/reassessment procedure created minor difficulties in a few Centres, more in terms of knowing when to reassess with full new assessment instrument. Good practice was shown where a Centre used oral clarification to confirm understanding of points missed in assessment (noting points made in answer) or where they allowed minor addition to assessment response (where approx 100 words were necessary to achieve) as this removed the need for complete second assessment. A new Assessment Instrument should be used where a more substantial response is required to meet the criteria, or where the candidate does not show understanding across a number of questions or across a whole topic/approach. This applies to Psychology A, B and C Units. The report in B and D Units and open book essay in Psychology C can be assessed by revising original work. Centres were clear on this. Centres do need to use alternative questions for reassessment purposes of the closed book asessment, when complete reassessment is required.

It was good practice to see requests for referencing for essays in student assessment evidence, as this supports core skill development of communication.

HIGHER NATIONAL GRADED UNITS

TITLES/LEVELS OF HN GRADED UNITS VERIFIED

Insert details below

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

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

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

General comments:

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

SVQ AWARDS

TITLES/LEVELS OF SVQ AWARDS VERIFIED

Insert details below

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:

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

General comments:

Advice on good practice and areas for further development: