

Moderation Feedback – Postal - 2005

Assessment Panel:

Biology

Qualification area

**Subject(s) and Level(s)
included in this report**

**Biology Access, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2,
Higher and Human Biology Higher**

General comments on moderation activity

Evidence from most of the centres was complete and in line with that requested by SQA.

In all cases the evidence submitted for Outcomes 1 and 2 was in the form of a published NAB test and in the vast majority of cases the candidate evidence supplied was for the candidates listed on the moderation request form.

Only one centre failed to supply the necessary evidence for Outcome 3 but this was rectified after intervention by SQA staff.

The Unit Tests

All the centres moderated had used published NAB Tests for Outcomes 1 and 2, with the majority of them using one of the earlier publications.

Marking was accurate and consistent in most cases. All of the centres had used updated marking schemes.

The totalling of scripts was of a very high order with no Arithmetic Errors.

The majority of centres showed signs of internal moderation and where this did occur there were fewer corrections by the moderating team.

Outcome 3

This area of assessment was of a very high standard across all the levels being moderated and in the majority of cases the level of reporting was commensurate with the level of qualification being tested.

Unlike the NAB test papers, the marking of Outcome 3 was rarely internally moderated and many of the candidate scripts submitted failed to indicate clearly where each of the specific PC's had been awarded.

Specific issues identified

- A small number of centres moderated had accepted answers that had not been given on the marking scheme and had not been changed on the marking scheme forwarded with their evidence
- Unit test are 'PASS or FAIL' – many centres also appear to award a variety of grades.
- In the case of Outcome 3 PC (f) there is a recommendation that more specific evaluation relating to the experiment rather than use of the generalised statements that regularly appear.
- Extrapolation of graph work continues to be given marks.

Feedback to centres

- The general standard was excellent with most centres producing evidence of a very high standard.
- As only one completed Outcome 3 report is required it need not necessarily be linked to the Unit Test being moderated.
- The Outcome 3 report used as evidence should allow the candidates the opportunity to achieve all the required PC's.
- Where internal verification produces changes these should be obvious to the moderation team.
- Any changes to the published mark schemes should be submitted with the evidence.