

Moderation Feedback – Postal - 2005

Assessment Panel:

Biology

Qualification area

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

Biology Standard Grade Practical Abilities

General comments on moderation activity

Evidence submitted by centres was generally complete and as requested with the sample containing the broad spectrum of grades as per the sampling format given in the guidelines to centres.

Specific issues identified

Techniques

Several centres had candidates that failed to successfully master all ten techniques and in some cases this resulted in them being penalised a grade.

A number of centres are not providing candidates with the opportunity to carry out all of the techniques, including relatively simple ones such as the starch test.

Investigations

Where there were Arithmetic errors and/or major differences in the application of the guidelines internal moderation was not evident.

The Generative Phase (G1 – G4)

A large number of candidates would benefit from more guidance in this section that would allow them to perform better throughout the rest of the paper.

(If a candidate is helped and no mark awarded the guidelines recommend that a short comment is included on the last page under ‘Teacher’s Comments’.)

The rest of the investigation

Several centres submitted two investigations for all candidates where both booklets covered discontinuous variable and subsequently, two bar graphs. Guidelines to centres state that at least one continuous variable investigation should be presented.

Candidates continue to receive a mark for EE2 by circling ‘A’ when the evidence did not support the hypothesis or no hypothesis was given in G3.

Where internal verification is carried out, it should be clear what the final decision is and where help is given to candidates to allow them to progress, a short note in the appropriate ‘Teacher’s Comments’ should be made.

Feedback to centres

Centres should ensure that they are using the latest set of guidelines for assessment.

Internal moderation should continue to be encouraged with the proviso that changes in marks and final decisions are obvious to the moderating team.

Candidates should be given the opportunity to attempt all techniques and several investigations in their two years of Standard Grade work.