

Moderation Feedback – Postal - 2005

Assessment Panel:

Chemistry

Qualification area

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

**Chemistry;
Standard Grade**

General comments on moderation activity

Within the sample, an increase was seen in the best practice of internal moderation and no 'old style' techniques sheets or investigation booklets were seen.

Specific issues identified

Two centres did not supply the correct sample selected from the form *Standard Grade Estimates and Assessment Grades (SGER 00)*.

An increase was seen in the best practice of rigorous internal moderation which resulted in several grade changes on candidate flyleaves and on the form *Standard Grade Estimates and Assessment Grades (SGER 00)*.

Techniques

Evidence submitted by one centre contained techniques which were neither signed nor dated and marks were missing from two of the flyleaves

D1 Titrations: This is the only technique which tests key ability 10 'Completing calculations' so there must be some evidence of initial and final volumes, subtraction and averaging. One centre accepted candidate evidence showing only the titre with no indication of an accurate value, i.e. no average of concordant titres.

E1 Preparing compounds by neutralization and evaporation: two centres accepted write-ups which did not describe either the shape or the colour of crystals obtained.

The quality of diagrams accepted by centres varied considerably.

Investigations

A minority of centres are still accepting work from their candidates which is well below the national standard. In these cases marking is often careless; arithmetic, scales, units and plotting of points on graphs have not been checked so undeserved marks have been awarded.

One centre allowed the use of the term 'amount' without penalty. Point 6, page 101 of the Standard Grade Arrangements document (issued April 2000, visited on the SQA website 27-04-05) states *use of 'amount' usually results in loss of marks as responses are misleading and/or ambiguous.*

Feedback to centres

- More centres are using the best practice of internal moderation to correct assessment errors prior to central moderation. In most cases the reasons for assessment decisions were clearly indicated in red ink.
- D1 Titrations: This is the only technique which tests key ability 10 ‘completing calculations’ so there must be some evidence of initial and final volumes, subtraction and averaging of concordant titres to obtain an accurate titre.
- The word “amount” should not be accepted as part of an Investigation report.
- Point 6, page 101 of the Standard Grade Arrangements document (issued April 2000) states *use of ‘amount’ usually results in loss of marks as responses are misleading and/or ambiguous.*