

Moderation Feedback – Visiting/Central - 2005

Assessment Panel:

Engineering

Qualification area

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

NQ units in Electronics and Instrumentation

General comments on moderation activity

1 Visiting Moderation of Applied Practical Electronics Intermediate 1: The 7 centres delivering this award, were visited by 3 members of the external moderation team. 4 schools and 3 colleges offer this award which is project based. There are 2 projects available and each centre can pick either. However, this session, all schools picked one while all colleges picked the other. From an external moderation viewpoint, the course documentation includes comprehensive assessment information, which simplifies the external moderation process to ensure that the required standards are met. Consequently, no real major issues were identified on these visits but potential improvements to the projects and the student activities have been identified.

2 Visiting NQ Moderation: As part of an SQA pilot, 3 centres were subject to visiting NQ moderation, this session. This activity has not taken place in recent sessions and it is hoped that the pilot programme is expanded. The role of prior moderation and the use of NABs causes confusion for centres with some centres not using the available NABs and not getting their own assessments prior moderated. Other centres use only parts of the NABs. The methods can vary within one centre.

Specific issues identified

With regards to the use of NABs for NQ units, discussed in section 1, it is not so much a misunderstanding with procedures, as the fact that the system is designed to give centres flexibility, but very few centres appear to use the prior moderation route. This, in itself, does not cause problems for external moderators, as it is part of the moderation process to ensure that standards are being met. The problem that is most likely to occur, is to confuse candidates if part of a NAB is used for a unit and the rest of the unit covered by centre assessments. Candidates need to be clear with regard to what they must do to achieve the unit.

Feedback to centres

1 The role of NABs for NQ units and the role of prior moderation needs to be reinforced or clarified for centres.

2 All centres continually strive to improve the performance of candidates and it may be helpful to centres to remind them of the part that moderation can take in this important area of quality improvement.