

National Qualifications Review

Physical Education

Investigation Report Executive summary

This report is the outcome of an investigation into how to implement the agreed actions which were detailed in the Physical Education Subject Review Report, published in May 2002.

The main concerns identified in the Review of Physical Education were:

- ◆ use of 20 and 60-hour Units at Intermediate 1 and 2 and Higher
- ◆ the requirement to select an activity from list A and B at Intermediate 1
- ◆ volume and duplication of assessment
- ◆ Unit and Course requirements at Advanced Higher
- ◆ progression from Standard Grade, through National Courses in PE, to Higher National programmes and other higher education provision
- ◆ the purpose and focus of the Courses, including comparison with other performance-based subjects and analysis of the perceived 'value' of PE Courses
- ◆ the volume and nature of internal assessment in all Units at all levels — this may require changes to Unit specifications and/or Course structures
- ◆ reliability, validity and level of demand of question papers
- ◆ the apparent disparity between candidate achievement in performance and written components of external assessment
- ◆ standards in Performance, concordance and consistency over time
- ◆ the revised model of visiting moderation, and mechanisms to achieve consistency in quality assurance across the Performance-based subjects
- ◆ experience of using the new administrative procedures and whether further simplification is necessary for Moderators and/or centres

The consultation process, carried out between January and March 2003, involved:

- ◆ questionnaires issued to all local authorities and SQA Moderators, and posted on the SQA website
- ◆ semi-structured interviews with subject experts in centres, examining team members and Principal Assessors
- ◆ two meetings of the PE Subject Advisory Group
- ◆ meetings with PE networks and curricular groups

The responses to the consultation indicated that:

- ◆ The purpose and focus of the Course is appropriate. While there is some disagreement as to the proportion of the Course that should be dedicated to Performance, retaining the 50% weighting for the Performance mark would be widely supported.
- ◆ The existing Course structure containing separate *Analysis* and *Investigation* Units leads to a duplication of assessment, and increases the volume of assessment.
- ◆ The main concern with external assessment is the duplication of assessment created by the Investigation Report component. The level of demand of the question paper is broadly acceptable, although some concerns were expressed that the questions can be repetitive from year to year.
- ◆ There is poor understanding of National Standards.
- ◆ The visiting moderation method of quality assurance in PE is acceptable.
- ◆ Recent improvements to the submission of Performance marks have simplified administration for centres, Moderators and SQA, but further improvements are necessary.

The following recommendations have been made:

- ◆ The Course at Intermediate 1 and 2 and Higher levels should be restructured to create two 60-hour Units: *Performance* and *Analysis of Performance* (the current *Investigation* Unit content should be subsumed within *Analysis of Performance*).
- ◆ The requirement to select activities from List A and B at Intermediate 1 should be removed.
- ◆ Further investigation is necessary to find out whether centres' concerns about progression have any implications for Course design.
- ◆ The total volume of assessment should be reduced and the duplication of assessment removed by internally assessing the investigation element by the production of a log book/Investigation Report. The number of external assessment components should be reduced to two: the current requirement to externally assess the log book/Investigation report should be removed.
- ◆ Units should be revised, and new NABs and exemplar material should be developed.
- ◆ The question paper should be redesigned to reflect the new Course structure, pulling on the approaches of other awarding bodies and other subject areas.
- ◆ The method of calculating and submitting Performance mark component should be reviewed. Marks for this component should be level specific.

Further work is required to:

- ◆ assist centres with the understanding of standards
- ◆ determine whether there is a business case for retention and revision of Advanced Higher

The full version of the investigation report is available on the appropriate NQ subject page of the Scottish Qualifications Authority website - www.sqa.org.uk

Comment: Please begin typing your document from here