

Moderation Feedback

Assessment Panel:

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

Qualification area

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

Religious Studies, 'Standard' Grade, Investigation

Central Moderation

Specific issues identified

This was the first moderation to take place at the Glasgow offices of SQA. The Senior Moderator would like to take this opportunity to thank the SQA staff for their preparedness, courtesy and support, making the moderation event trouble-free.

As noted above, Moderators were gratified at the range of issues selected for investigation. In past years the vast majority of reports related to abortion or euthanasia and there was concern about the extent to which these reflected independent study as opposed to a 'writing up' of taught components of the course.

It was noted, however, that candidates were being allowed to select themes such as 'Racism' or 'Animal Testing' and merely produce descriptive reports without identifying different viewpoints with the subsequent inability to reach an argued conclusion. Moderators were particularly concerned that those supervising such candidates had failed to note this weakness, awarding high grades where no analysis or argument had taken place.

In relation to candidates' reports Moderators noted:

- ◆ a lack of structure to many reports
- ◆ a tendency among a number of candidates, when exploring issues, of considering the viewpoint of six major world religions. It is felt that two or three contrasting viewpoints would be sufficient. It was further noted that this approach tends to produce descriptive rather than analytical text in reports
- ◆ that when personal conclusions on an issue were stated these often lacked supporting reasons at Foundation or argument at General and Credit
- ◆ lack of specificity when citing the internet as a source — URLs should be stated in full and some evaluation of the nature of the site should be indicated

Concern was also expressed that several candidates seemed to believe that Protestants and Roman Catholics belong to different religions.

Feedback to centres

The Moderators:

- ◆ commend centres on the increased breadth of issues selected for investigating
- ◆ would remind centres to ensure that candidates do not take a descriptive/topic approach when the exploration of an issue is required by the Conditions and Arrangements
- ◆ would encourage centres to give careful consideration to the sub-element 3 of the GRC for Investigating in relation to both the presentation of the report and the expression of a supported personal conclusion. Candidates would benefit from having the requirements clearly explained and centres should ensure the GRC are fully applied when grading
- ◆ would discourage a tendency to explore six religions' viewpoints on an issue (this tends to lead to description rather than analysis). Contrasting viewpoints are sufficient
- ◆ would continue to encourage full citation of internet sources
- ◆ regretted the number of candidates who appeared to believe that Protestants and Roman Catholics belong to different religions