SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Moderation Feedback

Assessment Panel:	**Technical Education**

Qualification area

Subject(s) and Level(s) included in this report	**Technological Studies Standard Grade Problem Solving Element**

Central Moderation

General comments on central moderation activity

This was the final year of submissions in this format as revised arrangements for assessment of Standard Grade Technological Studies will come into force next year.

In general, there was a much improved application of the GRC by schools in the assessment of this element. Hopefully this reflects a greater understanding of the process by teachers. Pupil reports were well structured and evidence was quite easy to find. Mainly, teachers comments were helpful in identifying why they had made decisions on grades.

Specific issues identified

Although the assessment of all schools was accepted, there were some aspects of how the element had been covered in a few schools which would have limited the achievement of pupils. These were:

a) Pupils were modelling a solution, not solving a problem. Their project would begin with a statement something like "For my project, I will make a …."
b) There was some very poor systems analysis, in some instances none.
c) Evaluations were frequently very limited, seldom drawing meaningful conclusions or suggesting further work.

Feedback to centres

This was the final year of the problem solving element. From 2003 there will be an assignment on the Application of Technology. Teachers should carefully read the course arrangements document along with the guidance on assessment of this assignment, issued by the SQA and follow the procedures laid down there precisely.