

Moderation Feedback

Assessment Panel:	Biology
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Qualification area

Subject(s) and Level(s) included in this report	Biology/Human Biology/Biotechnology Acc 3/Int 1, Int 2, Higher and Advanced Higher
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Central Moderation

General comments on central moderation activity

General

Evidence from the centres was generally complete and in line with that requested by SQA.

In all cases the evidence submitted was in the form of a NAB test and in most cases the candidates evidence supplied was for the candidates listed on the moderation request form. The missing centres were dealt with by the Senior Moderator, by post, at a later date.

Unit Tests

All centres moderated had used NABs as the Unit Test with evidence that all those published were in use. Marking was accurate and consistent in most cases with most of the centres having taken account of published additions and extension to the mark schemes, where applicable.

In many cases evidence of internal moderation was noted and welcomed.

The totaling of scripts was of a very high order.

Outcome 3 Reports

This area of assessment was of a very high standard also, and the level of reporting, in the vast majority of the cases commensurate with the level of qualification being tested.

There was greater evidence of internal moderation and the majority of centres had heeded the previous moderation request to indicate where in the script the various PCs had been awarded.

Specific issues identified

Unit Tests

- In several cases the published updates of the NABs mark schemes and other amendments, particularly in the Higher Biology/Human Biology had not been taken into account by centres.
- Where centres had obviously made their own internal additions/extensions to the published mark scheme they were not always submitted as requested.
- Very few centres make use of the opportunity to comment on, or explain internal marking decisions.
- Where differences arose in the internal moderation the result of the process was not always obvious.

Outcome 3 Reports

- Many reports being submitted are computer generated with accompanying graphics.
- The general standard was excellent with all of the PCs being covered by the vast majority of candidates.
- The level of complexity varied across the levels of submissions with most being of an appropriate standard and length.

Feedback to centres

Centres must check that all materials required for moderation are submitted. In particular Outcome 3 reports to accompany the various end of Unit Tests.

Internal moderation should be undertaken where possible and any changes made obvious for moderation purposes.

Centres should continue to submit any internal changes to NAB mark schemes with their moderation evidence.

The degree of complexity should reflect the level of award, in particular, the practical work undertaken at AH.