

## **Moderation Feedback — Visiting**

**Assessment Panel:**

Core Skills

**Qualification area:**

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

Core Skill Communication Access 3 – Higher 339

## Visiting Moderation

### General comments on visiting moderation activity

There were 5 visiting and 6 postal moderation events in the course of the year, several in the context of a pilot study on the moderation of Core Skills delivery. Additionally, several development visits were made to training centres to support the delivery of Communication as a workplace assessed component of Modern Apprenticeships. There were also a substantial number of telephone enquiries and requests for advice referred from other sections of SQA. Moderator input supported two English and Communication network events at SFEU, and a Quality Network day for the Prison Service. A number of centres applied for prior moderation of all instruments of assessment.

Many centres seem to be providing candidates with clear guidance and support materials, and several are also offering sound, supportive feedback and training and development at all stages of delivery. Increased integration of assessment tasks within course and VQ work reflects an interest in efficient and relevant approaches to the delivery of Communication. Varying interpretations of core skill development needs, and differing understanding of competence levels have, however, been apparent even in the small number of centres who have been largely self-selected. In some instances this relates to the vocational demands for Communication Skills, where candidates might produce evidence that is well beyond the standards of some outcomes; in other situations, however, evidence presented by candidates has indicated a low entry level of skills and minimal development prior to assessment. Centre devised Special Arrangements and Accreditation of Prior Learning have not always been appropriate.

The ability to discuss delivery and assessment methods and concerns with centre staff during moderation confirms the developmental value of the visiting event as an opportunity to confirm and support good practice.

### Specific issues identified

Issues identified in NQ/Workplace Assessed Communication delivery are

- Uneven use of diagnostic entry profiling to assure recommended entry level
- The value of support strategies
- APL issues
- Variations in the use of assessment materials and the support advice produced by SQA and other organisations (NQ and Workplace)
- Variations in assessment support and re-assessment

## Feedback to centres

- ◆ Communication assessment materials are most valuable when they are up to date, and tailored to the needs of the candidate
- ◆ Skills development, feedback and support are essential elements of a course
- ◆ Mapping and signposting across a course may provide a guide to opportunities for integrated assessment. It is not, however, possible to infer competence for any Outcome
- ◆ Witness testimony is acceptable as supporting evidence, but there must be direct candidate evidence for all outcomes
- ◆ Centres should internally moderate all assessment materials