

Moderation Feedback – Visiting - 2005

Qualification area

Engineering

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

HN Units in Computer Aided Technology

General comments on moderation activity

Last year's trend of increasing activity within our cognate group changed this session. There was a decrease from 12 centres visited last session to 9 this session.

Again a constant pattern has emerged of common units being used by centres mainly in the HNC in CAD which seems to be a very popular course.

Unfortunately there is a marked decrease in candidates taking up other units within our cognate group such as 'Computer Aided Manufacture' and 'Control'

Specific issues identified

Last year I reported that the units, especially those covering CAD, required revision and updating. As the senior moderator I have been kept informed by SQA staff of progress on the HNC/D CADD review. The HNC Review is now near completion and new units should be available for uptake by centres in August 2006.

This work when completed will ensure units encompass all of the new innovations and techniques used to date within the CAD software. This ongoing advancement within the technology of CAD was a great cause of misunderstanding within centres endeavouring to deliver units which were out of date.

Problems with the unit assessment for Engineering Computing 8520864 were highlighted last session. Centres should give each student a specific version of a routine to stop the copying of software. This unit assessment should be monitored again this session.

Feedback to centres

Centres should be reminded that in modernising HN units, merit is being removed from units.

Some centres are unsure of the procedure required to withdraw a candidate from a specific unit. In many cases the administrative staff within the centre do not pass the information on to the class lecturer resulting in last minute withdrawals.

The practice of prior moderation of assessments before these are presented to candidates is proving to be very successful for centre staff and candidates