

National Qualifications 2006

Senior Moderator Report

Subject: Home Economics

Assessment Panel: Home Economics/Hospitality

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on moderation which has taken place within National Qualifications in this subject.

STANDARD GRADE

ELEMENT / COURSEWORK MODERATED

PRACTICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT – COURSE OBJECTIVE 7

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

- Analyzing: some candidates are still offering statements rather than explanations for the key points.
- Planning: explanations given by candidates do not always link back to the key point – explanations in the planning section can link back directly to the key point itself or to the explanation that was offered for the key point in the analyzing section.
- Carrying out: some centres were still assessing candidates according to the skill level of the recipe / task instead of the criteria related to following instructions, efficiency and hygiene and safety.
- The use of pre-prepared ingredients in some centres resulted in candidates not making efficient use of their time during the practical task(s).
- The grade for the carrying out strand has a double –weighting. The grade for the complete exercise is the grade which is doubled – both grades awarded should be the same. It was found that some centers were entering two different grades for the carrying out strand.
- Care should be taken in transferring star ratings from one page to another.
- Craft items are not suitable for the carrying out strand – making a card or badge for example.
- Evaluating: some candidates are still having difficulty making evaluative comment at credit level – centres should refer to SQA exemplification on evaluation skills.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

- The majority of centres moderated showed a very good understanding of the assessment of the practical assignment and the use of the grade related criteria.
- It should be emphasized for some centres that the use of exemplar materials or other reference materials is not permitted for summative assessment. It was noted that candidates were copying comments and explanations directly from exemplar materials.
- Internal moderation is very important to ensure consistency of standards as discrepancies were evident between some teacher assessors within the same centre.
- The SQA guidance documents and exemplar materials should be used by centres as guidance for the practical assignment. Centres who devised their own format were often disadvantaging candidates.