

National Qualifications 2006

Senior Moderator Report

Subject: Mathematics & Statistics

Assessment Panel: Mathematics & Statistics

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

NATIONAL UNITS

TITLES/LEVELS OF NATIONAL UNITS MODERATED

ACCESS 3 – D559, D560, D561

HIGHER – D321, D322

ADVANCED HIGHER – DE8Y

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

- Materials submitted by centres were, in general, in order and well presented.
- Most candidate evidence was of a high standard and marking schemes had been applied correctly for the majority of questions.
- Centres should indicate on Sample Form the NAB/s used.
- A copy of each NAB used for initial and further assessment should be submitted with materials, several centres still failed to comply with this request.
- Some centres had failed to include all candidate evidence with only successful evidence included in submission. Please submit all candidate evidence, including that of failed outcomes, in any future moderation.
- In correcting candidate work we must again stress the importance of showing exactly what marks have been awarded. Please note that a line of ticks is not an acceptable way of correcting candidate evidence. A clear indication of marks awarded at each stage of candidate answer is beneficial to student and essential for both internal and external moderation.
- Each outcome may be marked holistically. It is correct to penalise a candidate only once within an outcome for a specific error, e.g. omitting the constant of integration. However, it is incorrect not to deduct for the same error in another outcome.
- There was some evidence of candidates completing unit assessment without the use of a calculator. Please be advised that calculators should be made available for all pupils completing unit assessments.
- At Access 3, D560, we observed that for outcome 4, Q. 5 some candidates may have had their answers recorded for them on their scripts during this practical exercise. We advise that, while this is in order, it should be recorded.
- At Higher, D322, we observed on 2 occasions that for outcome 3 a candidate had failed this outcome at the first attempt and then awarded a pass for correctly completing the same group of questions. To be acceptable, it is essential in mathematics that any resit uses different assessment questions.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

- Some centres had provided candidate summary sheets. This was very helpful and recommended as good practice.
- In centres where there was evidence of a rigorous internal moderation system, external moderation was straightforward. This highlights the advantages to all centres of implementing rigorous internal moderation procedures. In some centres there was evidence of obvious differences in interpretation by markers in the application of certain marks. It is imperative that standards are applied to all candidates equally.
- In many centres it would be advisable to involve all involved staff in training for assessment and moderation of candidate evidence as valuable exercise. This would assist in ensuring uniformity of standards within centre.
- A lack of sharpness in marking and differences in interpretation within centres reinforces the recommendation for a robust internal verification to be prioritized and put in place by centres with the following particular recommendation-
 - Internal moderation evidence should be recorded on candidate script.
- **At Higher, D321, it should be noted that differences in marks awarded for Q.7 were observed. This difficulty, to some extent, has arisen because only NAB001 has omitted to include $y =$ in the question. This will be addressed in a new version of the NAB and centres are asked to ensure that no candidate is disadvantaged. It is also worth noting that in responding to this question candidates should be instructed to ensure that the 10 clearly appears as a subscript.**

COMPONENT / COURSEWORK IN NATIONAL COURSES

No coursework moderation in this area

COMPONENT/COURSEWORK MODERATED

Insert details

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

Insert details relating to specific guidance which should be offered to centres based on the moderation of centres.

Include:

- *General comments*
- *Areas of good practice*
- *Areas for further development*

General comments:

Advice on good practice and areas for further development: