

Moderation Feedback – Visiting 2004

Music

Qualification area

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

Music – HN and NQ (all levels)

Visiting Moderation

General comments on visiting moderation activity

Moderation visits have been very well received generally and have served in most cases to confirm a centre's judgement as to the value of their retained evidence.

The moderation process has been handled efficiently and with few problems being encountered.

The HN moderation approach has been established for some time but for NQ courses this is a new experience and care was taken to ensure that centre staff were aware of their role in the process and how any proposed moderation visit would be conducted.

Specific issues identified

In some centres internal evidence could be enhanced greatly by relatively simple changes of practice, e.g. in HN performance units a recording of a practical outcome may not be a requirement but the retention of a recording on any appropriate medium serves to greatly enhance the quality of the evidence. This also provides an extra dimension to student self-appraisal.

In NQ some centres have neither the expertise nor the facilities to offer technology courses and centres must exercise caution when proceeding in this field to ensure that candidates have the opportunity to fulfil all the requirements of the course.

Feedback to centres

Feedback to centres is a crucial area in the process and care was taken at all times to recognise positive issues. This ranged from the recognition of exemplary record keeping to an acknowledgement of good teaching practice in the delivery of a unit.

Feedback was also given regarding equipment and/or software which might be considered for future use. This found particular favour in centres which offered technology courses, e.g. Sound Engineering. Assessment and recording strategies also formed an important part of feedback in this area.

Feedback was generally couched in such terms as would serve to reinforce current practice or serve to highlight areas of possible improvement. At NQ level this consisted of suggestions as to how a musical 'score' might be enhanced or suggestions in Advanced Higher MIDI work as to how more rigorous compliance with SQA requirements could be met.

Suggestions were also made, where appropriate, as to how any assessments could be made more valid, e.g. by the use of controlled conditions.

On more than one occasion centres had taken up all the suggestions made in the feedback report.