

Moderation Feedback – Visiting 2004

Social Sciences

Qualification area

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

Politics 279 HNC/D – NQ Higher

Visiting Moderation

General comments on visiting moderation activity

I will begin by noting that I had one postal moderation that was unsatisfactory. As with some of the visiting moderations I conducted, it was clear that there had been no internal verification of the units submitted for moderation. Some quite glaring errors were evident. My first observation in this report is that there does not appear to be enough quality control being exercised by some centres. Internal verification is not a bureaucratic imposition, it is both important and necessary to ensure standards are met and adhered to.

One consistent feature of this moderation group is the lack of suitable candidate material that is available at centres, particularly in B and D units. This is understandable and is not too problematic, but it means that moderation is often based on an assessment of projected results and quality for units drawn from evidence of available units. As a result, B units and D units are being accepted from the evidence available from A and C units.

Overall the sector continues to produce high quality candidate responses and displays a high standard of tutor input and support. The above criticisms are not widespread and there is good practice being displayed throughout the sector. There is criticism of the content of some of the HN politics units, and this will hopefully be redressed by a rewrite of all politics units. As with the HN units, the whole of the NQ politics provision is under discussion and subject to a complete rewrite. It is hoped that the sector can produce a comprehensive and coherent politics structure from Intermediate Two through to HND giving continuity and progression. It is also to be hoped that politics will attract a higher uptake of candidates in future as it should be at the core of all social science courses and an integral part of all social scientific enquiry.

Specific issues identified

A need for tighter internal moderation procedures

An attempt to complete units and compile candidate evidence earlier if possible.

One centre supplied photocopies of candidate evidence, and could not supply the originals as the tutor was part-time and not available at the time of the visit. This is not acceptable practice as photocopied evidence is no guarantee that the submitted scripts are genuine. This is not a reflection on any centre, nor on their integrity, but for moderation purposes the original scripts must be available.

Feedback to centres

Photocopies of candidate evidence are not acceptable. Original evidence must be available for moderation.