

Moderation Feedback – Visiting/Central - 2005

Assessment Panel:

Technical Education

Qualification area

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

**Technological Studies
Intermediate 2, Higher and Advanced Higher**

General comments on moderation activity

The Practical Activity was still the major area of difficulty, on two fronts –

- a) problems used for assessment not sufficiently rigorous
- b) teaching staff submitting insufficient documentary evidence that pupils had fully completed their practical assignments.

Some centres were also not assessing the Structured Questions (from the NAB material) as a UNIT pass or fail, still setting tests or retests on a LO by LO basis.

Generally the ability/performance level of the candidates was up to the relevant standards – “non-accepted” submissions (related to level of performance) were due to staff setting assessment tasks at the wrong level. Re-submitted evidence amended as directed by the Moderators brought a good response from candidates indicating that they had been capable of producing work to correct standard.

All the centres in the moderation sample were accepted either on initial moderation or after an assessment review.

Specific issues identified

Many centres are not assessing pupils in line with the NQ Review Memo of August **2002**, resulting in an initial moderation failure rate of almost 60%.

Feedback to centres

All Centres' staff should be familiar with the assessment arrangements issued in the NQ Review memo of August 2002 (Appendix 1 **and** appendix 2) and as amended/clarified in the Technical Education-Autumn Update of November 2002. All are available in the Technological Studies section of the SQA website.

The following is a summary of the above documents.

For all Technological Studies Units.

Where the type of assessment is Structured Questions, assessment must be carried out on a **Unit** pass or fail basis, not LO by LO. Overall scores for the Structured Questions in a NAB should be aggregated and a cut-off score of 60% applied to the **total** marks obtained, rounding **down** to the student's advantage. Tests or retests must be taken exclusively from any **one** version of the NAB material i.e. questions cannot be selected from across different NABS to construct a Unit test or retest.

The actual questions to be extracted from the NAB material to compile the revised tests are detailed for each unit in Appendix 2 of the NQ Review Memo.

Practical Activity

Assessment of practical activities is only required for the Systems & Control and Applied Electronics units, at Int2, H or AH level. (At Higher Level only the Structures & Materials Unit requires a graph plotted from derived or given data as specified in IA4)

For Applied Electronics Units assessment evidence should consist of:

- a) Clear statement of the problem set (the specification);
- b) Printout from the simulation software, showing successful system design;
- c) Diagram (and/or photograph) of circuit constructed, clearly showing IC pinout connections used;
- d) Short comment on the performance of the system (the evaluation).

For Systems & Control Units assessment evidence should consist of:

- a) Clear statement of the problem set (specification of the mechatronic system);
- b) A flowchart of the control sequence;
- c) Program listing – printout from software (with inputs/outputs clearly labelled or described);
- d) A short statement, describing the system (perhaps a photograph) and its performance (evaluation).

In addition the practical activity tasks selected should be suitable for the final assessment of a unit of a rigour suited to the level of that Unit, preferably a variety of assessment tasks set to a class, making individual rather than group working easier for teaching staff to assess.

Note there are no cut-off scores for practical activity assessment, rather, successful completion of each stage of the design/problem solving process being the criteria on which candidate success is based.