



National Qualifications 2014 Internal Assessment Report History

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

Historical Study: European & World: Int 1 and Int 2 (D256)

Historical Study: British: Higher (F8K0)

Historical Study: European & World: Higher (F8K1)

General comments

It is clear that the vast majority of centres have a very clear understanding of the national standard.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All the centres with one exception used NABs. One centre adapted the NAB successfully. Consequently, there were no problems with either the instruments of assessment or the marking schemes.

Evidence Requirements

Centres produced all the relevant evidence (NABs with marking schemes, candidate scripts etc), 85% produced evidence for the candidates selected, a few had substitutes for candidates who had been withdrawn and one presented evidence for a candidate at a different level to the one selected. There is always a challenge, when only successful candidates are presented, to ensure that the national standard has been applied.

Administration of assessments

All of the centres assessed their candidates using NABs and by applying the holistic marking scheme with one exception where PCs were applied. There was a problem in that some candidates failed to achieve all of the PCs, but they would have passed if the holistic marking scheme had been applied.

It was noted that a number of centres were just within the tolerance limits, particularly in rewarding analysis at Higher. This was not a problem for centres where cross-marking had been undertaken as part of their procedures.

A small number of candidates had evidence submitted where there were no marks or comments on the paper. Presumably a comments sheet had been used and it ought to have been included as part of the assessment evidence?

Areas of good practice

It was noted that more and more centres were using marker codes (rather than just ticks) for where credit had been awarded. Usually the codes matched those used for external assessments. This makes it clear to candidates (and to

verifiers) where and, for what, credit had been awarded. It also made it clear to verifiers where centres were verging towards the lenient and they were able to comment on that in their report.

There was also more clear evidence of cross-marking and where that occurred, there was very little divergence from the national standard.

Quite a number of centres had written comments on the candidate scripts, usually indicating where the candidate needed to write more but sometimes congratulating them on a particularly good piece of work.

It was also noted that centres using the holistic marking scheme for Intermediate candidates were very accurate in their assessment.

Specific areas for improvement

The increasing use of marking codes, especially those matching external assessment, is very welcome. It does indicate to candidates where they have been successful in gaining credit and should help them to improve their performance.

While an increasing number of centres are using cross-marking, a significant number showed no evidence of this being used. Cross-marking is very helpful in showing that a consistent standard is being applied across a department.