



**National Qualifications 2014
Internal Assessment Report
Religious, Moral and
Philosophical Studies**

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:

F5A6 13 – Philosophy of Religion (Advanced Higher)
F5A8 13 – Personal Research (Advanced Higher)
F5AM 13 – Medical Ethics (Advanced Higher)
F59E 12 – World Religion (Higher)
F59E 11 – World Religion (Intermediate 2)
F59E 10 – World Religion (Intermediate 1)
F58Y 12 – Christianity: Belief and Science (Higher)
F58Y 11 – Christianity: Belief and Science (Intermediate 2)
F59K 12 – Morality in the Modern World (Higher)
F59K 11 – Morality in the Modern World (Intermediate 2)

General comments

Of the centres sampled, the majority studied Buddhism and Christianity for the World Religions Unit.

It was encouraging for the verification team to see the majority of the centres sampled clearly demonstrating effective cross-marking throughout their centres' submitted work. It is the hope of the verification team that this good practice will continue into the new RMPS qualifications as it is of great benefit to candidates and also the verification process.

The overwhelming majority of the centres sampled were found to be in line with the national standards for RMPS and again centres are to be commended on this.

The verification team were encouraged by the clear evidence that the vast majority of candidates had coped well with the Unit assessments and this in turn demonstrated that centres had prepared their candidates well for the level that they were sitting in RMPS.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

For the majority of centres, Unit specifications were clearly understood and the correct instruments of assessment were used.

Many of the centres presenting at Advanced Higher had adapted some of the exemplification materials in such a way as to make them even more helpful to candidates — this practice is to be commended and encouraged.

Evidence Requirements

Most centres sent in evidence that had been marked in such a way as to make the verification process more efficient. It is obvious that centres are clear in what evidence is needed to ensure that the verification activity is successful.

Administration of assessments

The majority of centres administered the assessments appropriately. An example of centres not using assessments appropriately was by using past papers. This results in having to re-assess all candidates again and highlights the need for effective quality assurance procedures within a centre.

The majority of centres displayed good evidence of cross-marking/internal verification taking place before the verification process.

Areas of good practice

Many centres had demonstrated their cross-marking procedures by including signatures of those who had taken part as well as dating when the cross-marking checks took place.

Some centres had developed a pro forma which was used in the cross-marking procedure and this was helpful for the verifiers. We are also sure that this would have been helpful for candidates as it included comments for candidates to reflect on.

The production of a pupil checklist for the Unit assessment by one centre seemed to give extra support for candidates and indeed would be a useful 'aide-memoire' for exam revision. This could be something that centres further develop to link up with the assessment procedures for the new RMPS qualifications.

The practice of including comments/feedback to pupils is to be encouraged, especially as in the new RMPS Unit assessments there are no marks and comments will be even more important there.

Specific areas for improvement

Centres must make sure that they use the correct assessment. Using past papers is not acceptable and demonstrates that internal verification procedures have failed and are in need of review.

Some centres gave marks in the margins of candidates' work but there was no real evidence of where the marks were awarded in the actual script. This made the verification process slower than it should have been as the verifier then had to almost 'mark' the candidate script rather than verify the centre's marking.

A few centres allocated half marks to candidates. There are no half marks in RMPS Unit assessments.

On occasions, the verifiers noted that some centres were either too lenient or too severe in their allocation of marks. The candidates still passed but this is something that centres need to be aware of in future. Application of the Marking Instructions should be adhered to but at the same time remembering that the MIs are not exhaustive. With the move to the new RMPS qualifications application of assessment standards is something that all centres need to be more aware of in the future.