

Principal Assessor Report 2003

Assessment Panel:

Physical Education

Qualification area:

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

Sports Organisation (Higher) PBNC

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2002	
Pre appeal	17

Number of entries in 2003	
Pre appeal	13

General comments re entry numbers

Although entries were down from the previous year they were from two centres.

The expected increase in candidates, forecast in last year's report, did not materialise, even with the other centre coming 'on board'.

The new presenting centre is expecting to increase their candidate numbers significantly next year, however the original centre has indicated they may not present any candidates next year for reasons detailed later in this document.

Grade boundaries at C, B and A for each subject area included in the report

Grade boundaries for Higher Sports Organisation were set at a priori levels.		
%		Band
85-100	A upper	1
70-84	A lower	2
65-69	B upper	3
60-64	B lower	4
55-59	C upper	5
50-54	C lower	6
45-49	Fail (Near miss)	7
40-44	Fail	8
Less than 40	Fail	9

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

Grade boundaries remain unchanged from previous years as course assessment materials, including briefs, and marking guidance remain unchanged.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Candidates performed extremely well this year with the overall level of pass increasing.

It was noted that the improvement was across all component marks.

The quality of the event reflected the increased standard of passes, both centres presenting evidence of ambitious and large scale events which more than covered the minimum criteria required.

The centre which presented last year had taken note of the feedback given during the VA process last year and had improved candidate performance in the 'identification of aims and objectives' section of the planning phase to negate this as a general weakness in their candidate's performance (as it had been the previous session).

The new centre had moved on from their 'pilot' work of last year and the pupils had produced some of the strongest portfolios of evidence of the development phase seen to date. The events run at the school were of a very high standard, making good use of internal resources and linking with external agencies such as the local authority sports development team and the national governing bodies of the sports activities utilised in their events.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

The development phase remained the strongest part of the external assessment. After discussion with staff and colleagues from the other PBNCs in this area, it is probable that the practical hands on activity phase is the focus of the course, allied to the fact that the candidates selecting to do this course are activity minded students who, although realising the necessity for the planning and evaluation phases, still desire to be in front of, or in contact with, client groups as their main reason for choosing the course.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

Adherence to the word count in both planning and evaluation phases continued to be a problem, especially considering the magnitude of some of the events run this year. The point was made by teaching staff in one centre that "big event, big plans and a lot to evaluate!!" This was discussed and taken into consideration and the staffs were assured that this problem had been addressed in the newly written revised course assessment documents.

Other than this ongoing discussion point no real difficulties had been observed/noted.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

Feedback was given to centres formally utilising the Visiting Assessors Feedback Form and informally during question and answer sessions on the day of the VA.

A lot of time was spent with the new centre confirming the process the school had used was appropriate and the feedback to both centres was positive in all respects.

As part of the feedback process some information was given on the review of the award, to keep centres up to date with the progress of the developments in this area