

## Principal Assessor Report 2003

**Assessment Panel:**

**Art & Design**

**Qualification area**

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

**PBNC DESIGN Higher,  
PBNC DESIGN Intermediate 2**

## Statistical information: update

<b>Number of entries in 2002</b>	
<b>Pre appeal</b>	Higher – 48 Int. 2 - 21

<b>Number of entries in 2003</b>	
<b>Pre appeal</b>	Higher – 51 Int. 2 - 5

## General comments re entry numbers

There was a slight increase in presentations at Higher Level with a significant drop in presentations at Intermediate 2 level. The overall standard of work had improved for 2003, with improvement over both levels.

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

Specific figures were included in this report.

## **Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area**

Grade boundaries out of a total of 200 marks for Higher level were:

C - 100 marks  
B - 119 marks  
A - 138 marks

For Intermediate 2 level:

C - 100 marks  
B - 120 marks  
A - 140 marks

## **Comments on candidate performance**

### **General comments**

Intermediate 2

Performance at this level had improved on previous years.

Higher

The overall performance of candidates has improved steadily with a marked improvement in performance with 15.6% of the candidates achieving a Grade A.

The Action Plan, Development stage and Evaluations were better developed than in previous years.

Although only one school presented this year, their success in achieving a high standard of work across both levels was very much in evidence and extremely encouraging.

### **Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well**

The level and standard of work has improved this year. Candidates who obtained A level passes at both Intermediate 2 and Higher produced very high standards of work across all areas of assessment, from planning, development through to the evaluation stage.

Most centres developed comprehensive plans with detailed information on timescales and action points. This led to a more coherent design process and development of ideas to a satisfactory conclusion.

Intermediate 2 candidates had high levels of design development skills and a clear understanding of the design process in relation to the given brief.

## **Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty**

Although standards were high across most Action Plans there was some evidence that Plans had been completed in retrospect. It was also clear that some Action Plans seemed formulaic and similar. It is clear that candidates require good independent Action Plans to create a clear planning picture and to achieve strong marks in the Development stage.

The standard of submissions for the Development stage continue to be slightly depressed, although there has been a slight improvement in the actual development process. However, many candidates are still having difficulty with evidencing their thought process onto paper.

## **Recommendations**

### **Feedback to centres**

#### **Action Plan:**

There was evidence that a few Action Plans had been completed in retrospect of the final design solution. It is important that clear programmes of work are evident with suitable deadlines, set within appropriate timescales. A good Action Plan is essential to help candidates through the problem-solving process.

#### **Development Stage:**

It is important to ensure that a target audience has been identified on the development sheets and that there is clear evidence of graphic elements contained within the design brief.

Progression between the research, development and solution sheets should be evident. Although there was evidence this year that the design process is better understood further sophistication and refinement of the design process should be encouraged.

Candidates should also be encouraged to challenge the boundaries of influence which might enable the candidates to develop a wider range of ideas in the development stage.

Consideration should be given to the final solution of the development stage which is worth 40 marks out of 120 marks to ensure a good quality solution.

The final solution should also meet the requirements of the design brief.

#### **Evaluation:**

Candidates should ensure that they are putting forward informed and personal evaluations and be careful that they are not repeating their Action Plan.

Candidates should be encouraged to discuss their final solution and be coached on how to produce a good and informative evaluation report.