

Principal Assessor Report 2004

Assessment Panel:

Engineering

Qualification area

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

**Fabrication and Welding Intermediate 2
Practical Assignment**

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2003	5
----------------------------------	---

Number of entries in 2004	7
----------------------------------	---

General comments re entry numbers

The entries to date continue to be from one centre only with an increase on last year's candidate entries. Although centres are aware of the relevance this course has for students progressing to HNC and in particular the engineering project there continues to be a low uptake for this course.

Statistical Information: Performance of candidates

Distribution of awards

No. of candidates	7
A	2
B	2
C	0
D	1
No Award	2

Comments on any significant changes in percentages or distribution of awards

Candidate numbers too low to comment.

Grade boundaries for each subject area included in the report

Distribution of awards	%	Cum %	Number of candidates	Lowest mark
A	28.5	28.5	2	140
B	28.5	57.2	2	120
C	0.0	57.2	0	100
D	14.3	71.5	1	90
No award	28.5	100.0	2	

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

Level of demand remains consistent with previous years – ‘a priori’ grade boundaries set.

The examination for this subject is based on a project involving a practical assignment. The candidates are required to manufacture an artefact based on a given design brief. The assessment is based around the planning, development and the evaluation of the assignment. The candidates are also required to produce an artefact as part of the assessment process. The SQA marking scheme enables centres to focus on key areas of the assignment and provide candidates with guidance.

Candidates achieving passes at Lower A performed consistently well in all stages of the assignment. They did however score higher in the development and practical stages of the assignment than the other candidates. Once again it is worth noting that this type of assessment is more suited to students from the Fabrication and Welding discipline and was reflected in the high quality of the artefacts produced by the candidates. A number of the candidates are moving on to employment upon completion of their course.

As part of the guidance provided by SQA centres were given a suggested pro-forma for the layout of the candidates portfolio. This continues to be reflected in the standard, organisation and presentation of the candidates work.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

The assessment evidence is subject to visiting assessment. A report is produced and forwarded to the centre and SQA. In the main the standard of the candidate's work is reflected in the distribution of the marks. All candidates except one produced a very good artefact which was fit for purpose and met all the requirements of the design brief.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

The assignment was in three stages, planning, development and evaluation. Candidates who performed well in one area tended to perform well in the other areas. As in previous years candidates scored well in the development stage of the assignment which included the manufacturing element. In comparison to previous year, candidates demonstrated a better knowledge of what was required for working drawings and planning sketches. This section was very well answered and showed a marked improvement from previous years' submissions.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

None of the candidates produced time management information within the development stage of the assignment. This was strange as it was clearly stated within the candidate guidelines that this information was required. As a result, none of the candidates were awarded marks in this section of the assignment.

Areas of common misunderstanding

The requirement to produce a timescale table (see comment in previous section).

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

The standard of the candidates work continues to improve especially in the area of drawing and sketching.

As in previous years, the quality, design and innovation displayed in the manufactured artefact (CD rack) was very encouraging. Candidates obviously enjoyed participating in this area of the assignment.

The layout and presentation of portfolios continues to improve, as does the general standard of the practical work being produced.

A centre feedback report was submitted after the visiting assessment.