

Principal Assessor Report 2004

Assessment Panel:

Hospitality

Qualification area

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

Hospitality – Food and Drink Service Higher

Statistical information: update

Number of entries in 2003	8
----------------------------------	---

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

General comments re entry numbers

Only one centre entered candidates. This was the same centre that has entered candidates in previous years.

Statistical Information: Performance of candidates

Distribution of awards

B	– 42.9%
C	– 14.2%
No award	– 42.9%

Comments on any significant changes in percentages or distribution of awards

Too few candidates to comment on.

Grade boundaries for each subject area included in the report

Distribution of awards	%	Cum %	Number of candidates	Lowest mark
A				
B	42.9	42.9	3	105
C	14.2	57.1	1	90
D				75
No award	42.9	100.0	3	

General commentary on passmarks and grade boundaries

- While SQA aims to set examinations and create mark schemes which will allow a competent candidate to score a minimum 50% of the available marks (notional passmark) and a very well-prepared, very competent candidate to score at least 70%, it is almost impossible to get the standard absolutely on target every year, in every subject and level
- Each year we therefore hold a passmark meeting for each subject at each level where we bring together all the information available (statistical and judgmental). The Principal Assessor and SQA Qualifications Manager meet with the relevant SQA Business Manager and Statistician to discuss the evidence and make decisions. The meetings are chaired by members of the senior management team at SQA
- We adjust the passmark downwards if there is evidence that we have set a slightly more demanding exam than usual, allowing the pass rate to be unaffected by this circumstance
- We adjust the passmark upwards if there is evidence that we have set a slightly less demanding exam than usual, allowing the pass rate to be unaffected by this circumstance
- Where the standard appears to be very similar to previous years, we maintain similar grade boundaries
- An exam paper at a particular level in a subject in one year tends to have a marginally different set of grade boundaries from exam papers in that subject at that level in other years. This is because the particular questions are different. This is also the case for exams set in centres. And just because SQA has altered a boundary in a particular year in say Higher Chemistry does not mean that centres should necessarily alter boundaries in their prelim exam in Higher Chemistry. The two are not that closely related as they do not contain identical questions
- Our main aim is to be fair to candidates across all subjects and all levels and maintain standards across the years, even as arrangements evolve and change.

Comments on grade boundaries for each subject area

Grade boundaries are consistent with 2003.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Candidates were producing a better standard of work than in previous years. However, some candidates did not show any in-depth knowledge of food service or beverages and grammar and spelling were poor.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well

The Staff manual was answered well with good responses overall.

Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty

The questions in the expended response paper were not answered at a level consistent with candidates sitting a higher paper. Answers were not constructed well and often very brief.

Recommendations

Feedback to centres

Written paper:

Candidates need to show a level of answer that is appropriate to a higher-level paper. They did not seem to be guided by the marks allocated and often gave brief answers when extended answers were expected.

Questions that required thought and analysis were poorly answered. Guidance is needed in exam technique.

Staff manual:

Candidates need to be given more guidance to submit work appropriate to the allocation of marks on question paper.