

**Estimates, Absentees and
Assessment Appeals
Event**

Aims of the Event

- ♦ To share with delegates SQA's research findings into the Review of Estimates, Derived Grades and Appeals
- ♦ To provide opportunity for delegates to familiarise themselves with the updated guidance on Estimates, Absentees and Assessment Appeals
- ♦ To provide the opportunity for delegates to clarify issues

**Review of Estimates, Derived
Grades and Appeals**

Review of Estimates, Derived Grades and Appeals

- ◆ Continuous improvement of qualifications and systems
- ◆ Research into procedures for Estimates, Derived Grades and Appeals for National Qualifications

Review of Estimates, Derived Grades and Appeals

- ◆ Course awards made on the basis of evidence are more reliable and accurate than those made through the Derived Grades
- ◆ Retain Appeals process based on evidence
- ◆ Remove Derived Grades based on statistics
- ◆ All awards in future based on evidence

Research Findings — Estimates

- ◆ Levels of Agreement between estimates and awards
 - Standard Grade (Element) = 45%
 - National Courses = 47%
- ◆ Stability of a Course/Element has impact on estimates
- ◆ No general tendency to overestimate

Derived Grades

- ♦ After the examination, SQA compares the centre's estimate of a candidate's performance against their actual performance in the examination. If the centre has estimated accurately for the majority of candidates, then the candidates who have narrowly failed to achieve their estimated grade, or who had a genuine reason for absence on the day of examination, will be awarded the estimated grade. This is known as a 'Derived Grade'.
- ♦ The Derived Grade procedure is computerised to ensure that all candidates in all subjects are treated in the same way and are subject to the same rules.

Research Findings — Derived Grades

- ♦ Around one third of all entries result in a grade which is lower than the estimated grade
- ♦ About half of this group are not changed by the Derived Grades procedure or appealed for

Research Findings — Derived Grades

- ♦ Majority of Derived Grades awarded were for Standard Grade Elements
- ♦ Relaxation for centres with small numbers of candidates in 2005 proved positive for this category of centre
- ♦ A proportion of estimates in a sample of Derived Grades was not supported by the evidence
- ♦ In National Courses, Derived Grades procedure favoured candidates from less deprived backgrounds

Research Findings — Appeals

- ♦ Appeals were successful for all areas
- ♦ Half of all Appeals are successful
- ♦ Percentage of successful Appeals increase with extent to which estimate is higher than the award
- ♦ There are subject specific differences in Appeals success rates

Research Findings — Comparative Analysis

Comparative progression analysis shows:

- ♦ candidates gaining Standard Grades through external assessment perform better at Higher than those who gained Standard Grade through Appeals or Derived Grades
- ♦ those gaining Standard Grades through Derived Grades performed least well at Higher

Research Findings — Summary

- ♦ Need to do more work to support estimating and Understanding Standards
- ♦ Appeals based on evidence are working successfully
- ♦ Course awards made on the basis of evidence are more reliable and accurate than those made through the Derived Grades
- ♦ The Derived Grades procedure awards grades which may not have been awarded through Appeal

Outcomes

- ♦ Starting in 2007 exam diet, Derived Grades procedure to be withdrawn
- ♦ Retain the Appeals process based on evidence
- ♦ Examiners will consider evidence for all authorised absentees
- ♦ SQA to undertake a focused programme of teacher/lecturer development, building on and integrated with the current Understanding Standards activities
