



**Standard Grade 2013  
Internal Assessment Report  
Physics**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Standard Grade qualifications in this subject.

# Standard Grade

Practical Abilities element

## General comments

Most of the centres which were verified were found to have satisfactorily applied the marking criteria to the investigations.

The performance of centres in their marking of the investigations showed a high level of competence, with evidence of cross-verification indicated on the sampled candidates' investigations for the majority of centres verified.

Two of the total number of centres tested were Not Accepted.

Not Accepted results arose from:

- ◆ one centre with arithmetic errors in totalling candidates' marks
- ◆ one centre supplied incomplete evidence for the completion of practical techniques

## Administration of assessments

There was a good variety of acceptable investigation topics used by centres, which fulfilled the requirements of the internal assessment of Practical Abilities, as detailed in the Standard Grade Revised Arrangements in Physics.

Some centres showed *clear* evidence on the investigations of cross-marking, and of decisions being finalised where initially there had been internal disagreement within the centre.

For many centres, there was evidence of a shared understanding of the marking process by teachers.

## Areas of good practice

Some centres had evidence of internal verification for all candidate work. These centres had a notably successful completion of the verification process.

Some centres occasionally provided additional information on the reverse of the flyleaf — eg explaining why a candidate had not completed some Practical Techniques.

## Specific issues

The addition of marks awarded in an investigation must be carried out carefully, to allow candidates to receive their deserved Practical Abilities grade.

Centres are advised to double check the arithmetic totals for candidates in their investigations, and, where possible, have the investigations cross-checked internally for any marking or addition errors.

Centres are advised to carefully check the instructions for the submission of evidence when called upon for verification.

Failure to submit correct information before a verification event could result in delays to the certification of candidates.

The evidence for Practical Techniques should be carefully completed without any ambiguity as to whether a candidate has been offered the opportunity to pass a given technique. None of the entries in the 'techniques attempted' table should be left blank without a comment.

Teacher comments on the reverse of the candidate's flyleaf, should indicate reasons for any candidates not attempting some techniques (eg persistent absence, illness etc).

When marking candidates' investigations, teachers should make sure that a definite mark (ie a zero or a '1') is *always* entered into the mark box for each investigative skills objective. This removes any doubt or ambiguity as to the marking intention.

### **Graph drawing**

Some candidates attempted to complete graphs by connecting the plotted points instead of drawing the best-fit line.

However, some centres were particularly severe when marking the graph — on one occasion, a candidate was penalised for plotting one wrong point out of seven.