

Moderation Feedback — Central

Assessment Panel:

Computing and Information Technology

Qualification area:

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

Computing Studies — Standard Grade

Central Moderation

General comments on central moderation activity

A team of six moderators carried out the moderation process at Hanover House over 8th and 9th April 2003. The number of centres rose from 60 last year to 67 this year. Forty-five were 'accepted' (67%) while 22 were 'not accepted' (33%). A comment was returned to most of those 'accepted' expressing various concerns the team had about the evidence submitted by that centre. Of those 'not accepted' only five were for assessment and arithmetic errors, the remainder were for arithmetic errors only. The percentage of centres 'not accepted' for assessment errors was 7% — the same as last year. Every one of those centres awarded grades at a level for which there was no evidence or which did not have the complexity of task required.

It was gratifying to note that none of the centres 'not accepted' last year because of an assessment error was 'not accepted' this year for the same reason.

Most of the arithmetic errors were the result of carelessness by the teacher — incorrect addition of marks, wrong grades allocated, wrong grade cut-offs used, wrong transposition of grades to flyleaf, etc.

However, quite a number of centres do not apply the instructions issued by the SQA about submitting evidence.

There still seems to be confusion about what to do about insufficient evidence or no evidence for a grade element. The use of a grade 7 for insufficient evidence and a grade/code 8 for no evidence needs to be emphasised to centres. This also applies to the use of ½ marks in projects and the failure to put a single grade in a grade element box.

Feedback to centres

While assessment errors are becoming quite rare, the percentage of centres with arithmetic errors remains large (39%).

Centres are reminded to:

- ◆ include specifications and marking schemes
- ◆ follow marking schemes taking note of grade cut-off scores
- ◆ not to use ½ marks
- ◆ enter only one grade in each element box
- ◆ double check all summation of marks before submitting evidence
- ◆ make sure of their use of grade 7 and grade/code 8