

Moderation Feedback - Visiting 2004

Assessment Panel:

MATHS & STATS

Qualification area

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

Mathematics & Stats at NQ, N and HN levels

Visiting Moderation

General comments on visiting moderation activity

- Materials presented were both highly organized and well documented in most cases.
- Evidence presented at moderation visit was generally of a high standard.
- In many cases candidates demonstrated sound mathematical skills.
- In some centres clear evidence of excellent standards of internal verification.
- Clear evidence of good development work being undertaken in some centres to improve courses offered and materials being used.
- In others lots of development required to improve quality and make materials much more user friendly.
- Often more attention needs to be given to layout of write on student assessments – in many cases insufficient space allocated for necessary working.

Specific issues identified

- Many centres felt that visiting moderation was too sporadic.
- Feedback from centres visited was, in general, very favourable.
- The awarding of Merit was area of concern – despite clear Unit Specification, the approach taken to awarding Merit is haphazard and often at the whim of the individual assessor.
- Staff felt students were often happy to pass and were not particularly anxious to obtain Merit award.
- Assessment remains of some concern in small number of cases with one particular example of 15 different forms of same assessment being used in a class group of 26 to, hopefully, prevent students cheating.
- Many examples of need to update / improve presentation of materials being used.
- Often need to update recording process to make communication with student and moderation of materials simpler.
- Staff generally blamed lack of time to meet and lack of time in general for poor development .
- In some centres, staff felt that lack of professional development time resulted in lack of skills required to improve materials used.
- In several centres, staff said they were offered no professional development.
- Reference last statement, seemed often to be conflict with management interpretation of time allocation and staff views.

Feedback to centres

- All centres should be commended for meticulous approach taken to organize candidate evidence for external moderation.
- The majority of centres should also be commended for the rigour in their approach to internal verification and documentation of evidence.