

**Moderation Feedback - Visiting/Central**

**Assessment Panel:**

**Social Sciences**

**Qualification area**

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

**Politics 279 HNC/D/NQ Higher**

## **Visiting Moderation: Higher National**

### **General comments on visiting moderation activity**

There was one postal moderation that was unsatisfactory. As with some of the visiting moderations I conducted, it was clear that there had been no internal verification of the units submitted for moderation. Some quite glaring errors were evident. One observation is that there does not appear to be enough quality control being exercised by some centres. Internal verification is not a bureaucratic imposition, it is both important and necessary to ensure standards are met and adhered to.

One consistent feature of this moderation group is the lack of suitable candidate material that is available at centres, particularly in B and D units. This is understandable and is not too problematic, but it means that moderation is often based on an assessment of projected results and quality for units drawn from evidence of available units. As a result, B units and D units are being accepted from the evidence available from A and C units.

Overall the sector continues to produce high quality candidate responses and displays a high standard of tutor input and support. The above criticisms are not widespread and there is good practice being displayed throughout the sector. There is criticism of the content of some of the HN politics units, and this will hopefully be redressed by a rewrite of politics units.

### **Specific issues identified**

There is a need for tighter internal moderation procedures in some centres.

An attempt to complete units and compile candidate evidence earlier if possible.

One centre supplied photocopies of candidate evidence, and could not supply the originals as the tutor was part-time and not available at the time of the visit. This is not acceptable practice as photocopied evidence is no guarantee that the submitted scripts are genuine. This is not a reflection on any centre, nor on their integrity, but for moderation purposes the original scripts must be available.

## **Central Moderation: National Qualifications**

### **General comments on central moderation activity**

The central moderation event was held in Glasgow in April 2004. The sample of centres covered both schools and colleges, some with relatively high uptakes and some with rather smaller.

Standards of assessment followed by centres were very much to the national standard and all were accepted. There was evidence of good assessment practice.

Candidate performance was encouraging, particularly so in the schools sampled.

### **Specific issues identified**

If centres wish to use assessments they have devised themselves, it is strongly urged that they submit these for prior moderation. Likewise any modifications to NAB material should be clearly noted.

## **Feedback to centres**

Photocopies of candidate evidence are not acceptable. Original evidence must be available for moderation.