



## **National Qualifications 2007**

### **Senior Verifier Report**

**Subject:** Religious Studies Standard Grade

**Assessment Panel:** Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification which has taken place within National Qualifications in this subject.

## STANDARD GRADE

### ELEMENT/COURSEWORK VERIFIED

#### PUPIL INVESTIGATION OF A TOPIC RELATED TO BELIEF OR MORALITY

### FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

#### General comments:

Overall the verifiers were very pleased with the vast majority of the investigations presented and it is clear that students are relishing the opportunity to express their own reasoned opinions on a variety of issues. This year there was a very wide range of topics ranging from Animal Rights and Body Images right through to Surrogate Mothers and this is encouraging as it shows that students are being encouraged to think 'outside' of the traditional topics that have been covered in the past.

Some centres however are still not sending in enough relevant materials to support the grades that are being given for the planning and conducting sections of the investigations and this means that it is very difficult on occasions for verifiers to support the grades awarded. Also a few candidates seemed a bit unclear as to what the actual question/issue was that they were addressing.

#### Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Students should be encouraged to think of their 'title' as a question about the topic they are investigating as this will help them to focus more clearly on the actual issue.

As well as the actual report ALL submissions should include a diary (record of investigation) as this will help the verifiers to clearly assess the grades given to the student (see page 24 of the Arrangements Document). A clear bibliography would also help this process.

We would also encourage centres to remember that as it is a Religious Studies Investigation. It is, therefore, expected that 'a comprehensive and lucid report' would contain a wide range of sources and viewpoints and this must include religious viewpoints.

We would also actively encourage centres to regularly refer to the Grade Related Criteria for investigation when assessing student's progress and work towards the final report.

We would discourage the use of bullet points throughout any investigation as often it leads to the students not expressing themselves as fully as they might have done.