



**Higher National Qualifications**

**And**

**Scottish Vocational Qualifications**

**Senior Verifier Report**

**2007**

**Subject: Social Sciences**

**Sector Panel or SSC: Social Sciences**

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

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## HIGHER NATIONAL UNITS

### FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

#### General comments:

Social Sciences: Research and Methodology (DP59 34 & D81N34)

Social Sciences: Research Issues (D81P 35)

Centres should check that they are using correct version of Units for the new award. Centres were familiar with the underpinning knowledge and skills and worked well with these Units.

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

It was good to see second marking/double marking or evidence of robust Internal Verification procedures in place in Centres.

Good practice was evident in a number of Centres giving positive written feedback with suggestions for improvement as well as identifying strengths. Also, use of checklists detailing knowledge and skills to be covered were available in most centres. This was helpful for verification purposes.

Some strong responses were noted in the research Units.

## HIGHER NATIONAL GRADED UNITS

### TITLES/LEVELS OF HN GRADED UNITS VERIFIED

<b>D81W 35 (exam)</b>	<b>D81V 34 (project)</b>	<b>D81T34 (exam)</b>
<b>DX2M 35 (exam)</b>	<b>D88N 35 (project)</b>	<b>DW90 34 (exam)</b>
<b>DT8X 35 (exam)</b>		

### FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

#### General comments:

In the main Centres provided paperwork that was well laid out, clear and helpful. There is an increase in understanding of requirements of Units and good preparation of candidates evident in their responses.

Centres should check they are using correct version of Units for the new award. One Centre used the wrong version for the new award which created problems with verification.

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

It was good to see second marking/double marking or evidence of robust Internal Verification procedures in place in Centres.

Good practice was evident in a number of Centres giving positive written feedback with suggestions for improvement as well as identifying strengths.

Good practice was seen in the use of standardized booklets for answers giving clear instructions for candidates.

#### Areas for development

A few Centres were not showing marks allocated in the margin of candidates' work but rather just giving global totals. Generally, this led to 'holds' until it could be clarified where marks were gained. It is more appropriate and helpful in external verification to have an indication of where marks are gained. Centres should consider using 'K & U' and 'C & E' alongside marks given to indicate what is accepted. This is good practice.

It is still apparent that a few Centres are giving half marks which resulted in inflated scores. Centres should not give half marks - only full marks should be given.

Occasionally, marking instructions varied in detail across disciplines within a Centre. A standardized approach to detailed marking instructions should be adopted by the internal verification process.