

## Principal Assessor Report

**Assessment Panel:**

**Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies**

**Qualification area**

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

**Religious Studies, Standard Grade**

## Statistical information: update

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| <b>Number of entries in 2002</b> |      |
| <b>Pre appeal</b>                | 1315 |
| <b>Post appeal</b>               |      |

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| <b>Number of entries in 2003</b> |      |
| <b>Pre appeal</b>                | 1720 |
| <b>Post appeal</b>               |      |

### General comments re entry numbers

While in recent years there has been an upward trend in presentation numbers the increase of approximately 30% this year is highly gratifying.

### General comments

As has been stated in previous years, the majority of candidates are presented for the General/Credit papers and that, with very few exceptions, the level at which candidates are presented is appropriate. Where presentation has proved inappropriate candidates have been presented at General/Credit when Foundation/General would have been more appropriate.

## **Comments on candidate performance**

### **General comments**

Markers reported a generally good performance by candidates at Foundation/General though concern was expressed that, at times, candidates failed to develop reasons in their answers.

At General/Credit the majority of markers rated performance as high to exceptionally high.

Concern was expressed that answers suggested lack of in-depth knowledge in the Christianity and Issues sections.

### **Areas of external assessment in which candidates performed well**

There was no consistency in the comments passed by markers, performance in some areas was rated high in some centres, in other areas in other centres. This implies a 'neutrality' or 'evenness' in the paper which I think is a sign of successful setting and vetting.

### **Areas of external assessment in which candidates had difficulty**

No specific areas of difficulty emerged.

### **Areas of common misunderstanding**

There were no common misunderstandings of questions in any of the papers.

## **Recommendations**

### **Feedback to centres**

Centres should be congratulated on the general quality of Knowledge and Understanding displayed by candidates at General/Credit level.

Candidates, at all levels, should be encouraged to ensure that, when supporting statements or opinions with reasons, clear and at times developed reasons should be stated.

There is some evidence that candidates would benefit from teaching which clearly focuses on the Key Concepts in so far as they underpin the religions' practices. While this comment applies to all religions it has particular poignancy in Christianity.