



External Assessment Report 2009

Subject	Social and Vocational Skills
Level	Standard Grade

The statistics used in this report are pre-appeal.

This report provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers/lecturers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding. It would be helpful to read this report in conjunction with the published question papers and marking instructions for the Examination.

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

Overall, candidates coped well with these papers at all levels. Candidates did better in tasks that involved giving information, for example form filling and designing advice sheets, than they did with questions involving calculations or, at Credit level, reading for information.

Despite a small drop in the overall number of candidates presented, there was a much larger drop in the number of candidates presented at Foundation/General level. This meant that there was, of course, an increase in the proportion of candidates sitting at General/Credit level. Generally, candidates coped very well at General level, which indicates that they were better prepared by centres and that both candidates and centres were justifiably confident that they could pass at this level.

Many coped well enough at Credit level to achieve a grade 2, but some candidates made little or no attempt to complete the Credit paper, indicating that, while they were quite comfortable at General level, Credit level under exam conditions was beyond them.

Areas in which candidates performed well

As indicated above, questions, or parts of questions, which involved form filling were very well done i.e. foundation Q3 and General Q2 (a) and 4(a). Designing a work experience report form in Credit Q1 and the advice sheet in Credit Q4 were also well done and this showed evidence of good preparation by centres. Foundation Q4 (a) was also very well done, with most candidates achieving full marks.

Areas which candidates found demanding

As has been the case in previous years, candidates had difficulty with questions or parts of questions which involved calculations and the accurate recording of their outcomes, e.g. the correct placement of the decimal points. As a result, some candidates did not attempt General Q2(b)(i) and many who did failed to gain any marks.

Some candidates also had difficulties with the quantities in Foundation Q1(a), and very few gained the mark for the calculation in Credit Q3.

Some Credit candidates found sorting through the information in Q3, to find what was relevant, quite difficult, and a number, while including most of the relevant information, also included most of the irrelevant information.

It was disappointing that some candidates lost marks in General Q1 by not completing the technical points of the letter i.e. address, date, salutation, complementary close and signature.

Advice to centres for preparation of future candidates

As indicated above, there was a clear indication that the candidates presented this year were very well prepared, especially at General Level. There was also a clear indication that centres have a better understanding of the relationship between the two elements and between internal and external assessment.

While it was encouraging to see that the proportion of candidates presented at General/Credit level had increased, centres should be aware that in a number of individual cases where a candidate is quite

comfortable at General level, and might have an excellent folio of Practical Abilities work, sitting a Credit level exam might still not be appropriate.

Two improvements that would help future performance in the exam would be to make sure that candidates have a good grasp of the basic technical aspects of letter writing and that they take greater care in the accurate recording of the results in calculations.

Statistical information: update on Courses

Number of resulted entries in 2008	2840
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Number of resulted entries in 2009	2734
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Statistical Information: Performance of candidates

Distribution of overall awards

Grade 1	18.7%
Grade 2	25.2%
Grade 3	27.3%
Grade 4	18.3%
Grade 5	6.5%
Grade 6	1.1%
Grade 7	0.0%
No award	3.0%

Grade boundaries for each assessable element in the subject included in the report

Assessable Element	Credit Max Mark	Grade Boundaries		General Max Mark	Grade Boundaries		Foundation Max Mark	Grade Boundaries	
		1	2		3	4		5	6
CA	70	46	34	60	37	27	55	32	23