

Research and Information Services

MONITORING STANDARDS REPORT



HND Social Sciences (G21P 16)

2005 Report on Monitoring Standards

Scottish Qualifications Authority

2005 Report on Monitoring Standards in

HND Social Sciences (G21P 16)

Three experienced members of SQA's moderating team judged assessment material and candidate evidence against the standards of Unit:

◆ **A6V504** *Research Analysis in the Social Sciences*

Centres were asked to provide evidence for two candidates for the above Unit. The total number of judgements for assessment instruments and assessment decisions in 2005 was 8. Some detailed Unit comments are provided as an appendix to this report.

The scrutiny panel's findings can be summarised as follows:

Quality of collected material

Generally of an acceptable standard, although some gaps in information provided were noted.

Assessment instruments

While those which were available met the criteria and range, it was necessary to base judgements on candidate responses in certain instances.

Evidence of candidate performance

Generally of an appropriate standard with Performance Criteria and range covered.

Assessment decisions

Usually sound except where candidate evidence was incomplete (see comments under 'quality of collected material').

Comparing standards over time

These were judged to be of a similar standard across 2002 and 2005 with no real difference in practice noted.

General comments

There was variability in the conditions of assessment that are being used due in part to the fact that the Unit Specification does not specify this. This variability was also apparent in 2002. There was no evidence of internal moderation having taken place.

Conclusions

A useful Unit which does not fit the new framework or design. It complements work in Research and Methodology Unit and in Psychology.

Recommendations

SQA should:

- ◆ make it clear to centres what materials are required for monitoring purposes, eg assessment instruments and marking guidelines, etc
- ◆ consider making monitoring a compulsory rather than ‘voluntary’ exercise
- ◆ ask centres to include ‘instructions to candidates’