

Moderation Feedback – Visiting - 2005

Mathematics and Statistics

Qualification area

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

HN –

- **Business Stats 1** - **A5NV 35**
 - **Business Stats 2** - **A5NW 35**
 - **Probability & Stats** - **D41Y 04**
 - **Calculus 1 for Engineering** - **A5NK 04**
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General comments on moderation activity

- Most candidate evidence was well presented.
- For candidates with evidence available to moderators, high performance standards were shown by most candidates.
- However, large drop out rate was evident in many centres with several explanations such as candidates being started at inappropriately high level. Maths departments are often acting as service agents for other areas in college and being asked to deliver a particular course. Current Maths skills of candidates were not at a sufficient level to cope with essential knowledge requirements to embark on some courses with time constraints on delivery and lack to time for initial remediation work. Most successful candidates were those already in employment and requiring courses as necessary part of training program.
- In majority of centres, student project work in A5NV, Business Stats 1, was of a high standard.
- In a few centres, however, some project drawing work was of a very poor standard. In future staff/course development work attention should be given to excellent drawing packages available
- Few students attempted Merit sections.

Specific issues identified

- Often difficult to follow marking system used by centre – for both candidate understanding of performance and moderation of scripts it is essential to show clearly which marks are being awarded and that this is shown at correct point on script.
- In general, Merit section no longer being attempted, with explanation that candidates' standards are now poorer and they are either unable or unwilling to attempt Merit section.
- In centres where there was evidence of internal moderation, external moderation was straightforward. This highlights the advantages to all centres of implementing internal moderation procedures.
- It is recommended that all centres have internal moderation procedures in place.

Feedback to centres

Lots of evidence of high quality resources and teaching but improvements required in assessment materials.

A clearer indication of marks awarded at each stage of candidate answer is beneficial to students and for both internal and external moderation.

Consideration should be given by all centres to using individual student recording sheets to facilitate discussion with candidates as to whether or not they have met threshold requirements.

Colleges should look at appropriateness of courses and the start point for learning to ensure student motivation and success.

It is recommended that internal moderation is put in place by all centres.

It is recommended that records of meetings to discuss internal moderation should be kept, and that evidence of internal moderation should be recorded on candidate scripts.