National Qualifications 2015
Internal Assessment Report
Computing

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject

National Courses

C206 12: Higher Computing
C206 13: Advanced Higher Computing

General comments

As in 2014, only two levels of NQ Computing were verified this year — Advanced Higher by visiting and Higher by central verification.

Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

This is the last year for both Higher and Advanced Higher Computing. These have been replaced with Higher and Advanced Higher Computing Science. Information about the Course Specification, Unit Specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials is available from the Computing Science subject web page.

Evidence Requirements

The vast majority of centres had included all appropriate materials and clearly understood what was required to evidence the coursework.

Administration of assessments

The majority of the centres had internally verified the coursework at Higher and projects at Advanced Higher.

It is vital that centres double-check the arithmetic of candidates' marks as this can on occasions lead to a centre being Not Accepted.

Areas of good practice

The majority of centres had applied the marking scheme for both Courses appropriately with assessors giving good reasons why marks had been awarded or deducted.

At Advanced Higher there was a wide-ranging, interesting array of projects that at times went beyond the minimum requirements, which showed candidates' diverse interests, skills and desire to push the boundaries of their own knowledge.

Specific areas for improvement

In Higher Computing Software Development there were still issues relating to data flow and pseudocode. Some candidates were using code rather than pseudocode which means that the design phase of the software development process is being by-passed. The marking of the data flow by some centres

showed a lack of understanding with confusion between input and output into the program and the data flow into the subprograms.

In Higher Computing Computer Systems there was still a problem with some candidates being unable to recommend hardware and software within the context of the problem and not having a comparison that reflected the task that the equipment was going to be used for. Price should only be used as a final criterion when all others are equal.