National Qualifications 2015
Internal Assessment Report
Technological Studies

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

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

D187 Systems & Control Unit (Intermediate 2/ Higher/ Advanced Higher)
D186 Applied Electronics Unit (Intermediate 2/ Higher/ Advanced Higher)

General comments

The 2015 central verification event reviewed the assessment decisions of 10 centres covering evidence from the Applied Electronics and Systems & Control Units, and across Intermediate 2, Higher, and Advanced Higher levels.

Unit	Number of centres	Accepted	Not accepted
D186 Applied Electronics	9	6	3
D187 Systems & Control	1	1	0

Three centres recorded a Not Accepted decision, one fewer than in 2014.

All centres reviewed had a clear understanding of the management and assessment of the Structured Question test (IA1) in both Units and across all levels.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All 10 centres verified had a good understanding of the Unit specifications and instruments of assessment. It was apparent that a few of the centres were unfamiliar with the content of the *Exemplification of Standards: Technological Studies — Practical Activities* document and in particular the advice on the Advanced Higher Applied Electronics Unit evidence.

Evidence Requirements

The assessment of the Structured Questions (IA1) was accurately and consistently marked by all centres.

There was an increase in the number of centres that used problem tasks provided in the *Exemplification of Standards: Technological Studies — Practical Activities* document for the Applied Electronics Unit and this helped to ensure that more candidates submitted suitable evidence for the design, simulation, construction and evaluation of a circuit set at an appropriate level.

Administration of assessments

The administration of the assessment in both Units verified was generally very good. Most centres had evidence of effective internal verification and as a result their decisions were found to be consistently reliable.

Areas of good practice

A number of centres used a template-based approach to help candidates structure and present their evidence for Practical Activities (IA2 & IA3). This approach helped to ensure that evaluations were robust and based on a comparison of the system's performance with the problem specification.

Specific areas for improvement

Centres may wish to note that it is considered good practice to use a number of different problem tasks to generate evidence for Practical Activities (IA2 & IA3), with a ratio of around five tasks per 20 candidates suggested.