



**Higher National Qualifications
Internal Assessment Report 2016
Electrical Engineering**

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

Higher National graded units

Titles/levels of HN graded units verified:

DN3V 34 Electrical Engineering: Graded Unit 1

General comments

External verification of DN3V 34 Electrical Engineering: Graded Unit 1 was carried out by four SQA qualification verifiers at a central verification event. Quality assurance documentation and candidate scripts were submitted for verification by four centres, all of which were further education colleges. All four centres were judged to have significant strengths in assessing the unit.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The Electrical Engineering: Graded Unit 1 is assessed by means of a closed-book examination, undertaken by candidates under supervised conditions. Most Scottish colleges are utilising examination papers that are created annually by a consortium consisting of a number of colleges. During academic year 2015–16, the consortium devised examination papers for both the first diet (May) and the re-sit event (June) were submitted to SQA for prior verification. These, along with the marking schemes, were of an appropriate academic standard and met the requirements of the unit specification.

Evidence requirements

The candidate scripts from the four centres were centrally verified by SQA qualification verifiers. In all cases, the marking was found to be fair and consistent, and the grades awarded were appropriate. There was evidence that all the centres had implemented processes to internally verify the assessment paper and the student scripts.

Administration of assessments

Prior to assessment events, centres had securely stored the prior verified graded unit examination papers. Assessment of candidates had then been undertaken under closed-book, supervised conditions. To help prepare candidates for assessment, some centres had utilised past examination papers in their delivery of the unit.

In all four centres verified, candidate scripts had been internally verified to ensure consistent and fair grading of candidates. The method of second marking had been used and sampling of scripts had been applied where the number of candidates was high.

General feedback

Evidence from the SQA central verification activity carried out on DN3V 34 Electrical Engineering: Graded Unit 1 showed that the graded unit is being delivered and assessed consistently across centres. The assessments used to grade candidates were valid, reliable and fair. The quality assurance documentation submitted by the centres evidenced that well-established processes for internally verifying assessment instruments and candidate responses were being appropriately implemented.

Areas of good practice

The use of a common consortium-devised paper had helped to ensure that candidates were assessed to a common standard. It was also recognised that working together to devise assessment instruments had facilitated the sharing of resources and good practice between delivering centres.

Second marking was observed to have been used by a number of centres as a means of internally verifying candidate scripts. Good practice was identified in the way that the some centre staff had annotated the scripts to show evidence of this activity.

Specific areas for improvement

Centres should work to ensure that new questions are devised for the graded unit examination paper, and that these are refreshed on an annual basis.