



EXAMINERS' REPORTS

**ENTRY PATHWAYS
SCIENCE TODAY**

JANUARY 2016

ENTRY PATHWAYS

SCIENCE TODAY

January 2016

Principal Moderator: Sharon Moore

In January 2016, 18 centres submitted a variety of units for moderation. Samples of all units between 6200 and 6212 were submitted at both Entry level 2 and Entry level 3.

A number of centres have previously submitted the same or different units for moderation, but there were also a few new centres submitting units for moderation for the first time.

The following observations were made as a result of the moderation process.

General Comments

1. Good practice

- A number of centres provided an excellent range of evidence for individual units, this included photographs, reports, diaries, leaflets, posters, presentations and witness statements. A particularly good example of evidence for the Health and Safety unit (unit 6203) was noted during moderation; where the centre had candidates complete a role play for a fire situation at the centre: with relevant annotated photographs to show the procedures that each candidate followed.
- A number of centres clearly demonstrated that they had acted on the comments from the previous moderators report and there were clear improvements in the quality of the evidence they submitted.
- The annotation by centres was generally very good, which made it easy for the moderator to confirm that particular Assessment Criteria had been achieved by the candidate, relevant to a particular piece of evidence.

2. Areas for further improvement

- A number of centres had failed to address concerns and issues made in their previous moderator's reports—this resulted in a number of centres having units rejected. It is imperative that all centres read carefully and act upon any issues raised in their moderator's reports, failure to do so will result in units not being accepted.
- Centres are reminded that this qualification is assessed at Assessment Criteria (A.C) level; it is through achievement of individual assessment criteria that candidates demonstrate knowledge/understanding/skill of a particular learning outcome. Centres must ensure that the tasks that candidates are asked to complete and therefore the evidence they produce does match the assessment criteria. A particular example is seen with unit 6207-Science and the plant world: A.C 1.1 requires candidates to identify the conditions needed for the **growth of plants** and A.C1.2 requires candidates to identify the conditions needed for the **germination**. These should be listed separately so it can be seen that candidates appreciate the difference between growth and germination.

- The condition of this qualification, in line with all similar qualifications, is that in order to achieve a unit, a candidate must meet the requirements of every A.C within a unit, not some of the A.Cs, or part of an A.C. Centres should ensure that there is sufficient (but not excessive) evidence to demonstrate achievement for every A.C. A particular example of this is where an A.C requires candidates to demonstrate they have complied with Health and Safety requirements; a short testimony/witness statement (“John followed the required safety procedures, including wearing goggles and gloves whilst completing the practical”) is the best form of evidence for this.
- Centres need to read all the assessment criteria for a unit carefully to ensure that assessed activities do address the requirements of the criteria. Centres should make use of the amplification of content provided for each unit to help them develop assessment activities that accurately match the requirements of the assessment criteria. In particular centres should take note of “plurals” in assessment criteria, such as body systems or natural factors. In the Variation and Adaptation unit (6209), if the criteria is about a plant (for example A.C 2.2), centres must make sure that it is a plant that this used in the production of the candidate’s evidence; a Lichen is not classified as a plant (it is a fungus) and should not therefore be used.
- There were instances where centres provided portfolios of work which contained everything a candidate had completed for a unit. Evidence submitted should be of **assessed work only**, i.e. particular tasks and activities that allow assessment criteria to be achieved. Only one piece of evidence for each assessment criterion is required to be submitted.



WJEC
245 Western Avenue
Cardiff CF5 2YX
Tel No 029 2026 5000
Fax 029 2057 5994
E-mail: exams@wjec.co.uk
website: www.wjec.co.uk