



PRINCIPAL MODERATORS REPORT

**ENTRY PATHWAYS
SCIENCE TODAY**

JANUARY 2018

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January 2018

In January 2018, 17 centres submitted a variety of units for moderation. Samples of all units between 6200 and 6212 were submitted either at Entry 2 or Entry 3.

A number of centres have previously submitted the same or different units for moderation. There were no 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.
- Centres who had clearly written tasks for students which matched the assessment criteria, provided evidence which clearly demonstrated that candidates had achieved the criteria. Centres who followed this approach provided evidence which was easy for them to assess and easy for moderators to confirm achievement.
- 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. It is imperative that all centres read carefully and act upon any issues raised in their moderators 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/skills 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, which has previously been commented on, is seen with unit 6207-Science and the plant world. At E3: 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.

- Centres should ensure that there is sufficient (but not excessive) evidence to demonstrate achievement for every A.C for a specific unit. 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.
- Centres should take note of “plurals” in assessment criteria, such as body systems or natural factors.



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