



PRINCIPAL MODERATOR'S REPORT

**ENTRY PATHWAYS
SCIENCE TODAY**

SUMMER 2018

ENTRY PATHWAYS

SCIENCE TODAY

Summer 2018

In June 2018, 74 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 some 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

- The standard of evidence submitted for moderation was good this series with the vast majority of centres having aligned activities to produce evidence to meet the requirements of the assessment criteria.
- 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 few 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 and not at Learning Outcome (LO) 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, 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 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 notes of “plurals” in assessment criteria, such as body systems or natural factors. Centres should also make particular note of the command words used in assessment criteria— describe, requires more than just a list, and compare requires more than just a table.
- In some instances it was not clear how a particular piece of evidence had been generated, i.e. how had candidates “come up” with the answers? Did they use a text book? Watch a video etc? Did candidates answer questions on-line and print the answers out, or were pages printed directly from a website? In such instances, a simple annotation on the work such as “worksheet answered after candidate watched a class video” would ensure the validity and authenticity of the evidence.
- Centres should ensure the validity of evidence through annotation. This is particularly true with the use of photographs, where annotation by the candidate or teacher or an accompanying witness statement, would have enhanced the evidence and made the achievement of assessment criteria much more obvious.



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