

KEY SKILLS APPLICATION OF NUMBER (OCTOBER) 2007

Principal Moderator's Report

Task Setting

The tasks set were suitable to enable students to generate the evidence required at the appropriate level.

In some cases a task was set for a whole class however students should be encouraged to provide more individual work especially at Level 3.

Application of the Assessment Criteria

Level 1

The majority of portfolios were correctly assessed as Level 1. In a minority of cases only one source was used when two are required. Calculation evidence of N1.2b was sometimes missing as a scale diagram without calculations was inappropriately claimed. For N1.3 some candidates used only one presentation method to present their findings.

Level 2

A minority of portfolios did not contain evidence of using data taken from a graph or chart. In situations where the same information is provided in a tabular source and a graphical source within the portfolio it cannot be assumed that the learner used the graph. In some cases the table was used due to the level of accuracy of the values stated as these could not be obtained from the graphical source. The graph/chart source although present was not always used.

Calculation evidence for N2.2a and b was generally provided however for N2.2c comparisons were not always made. In some cases spreadsheet formulae were claimed for N2.2d however these are not acceptable.

The presentation of findings was usually met but interpretation was often weak for Level 2.

Level 3

Many for the portfolios claimed as Level 3 were not of the appropriate standard. This was often due to insufficient evidence of multi-stage calculations. Answers only are insufficient as evidence; all stages of the calculation must be clearly shown and checking must be provided. Inaccurate calculations cannot be accepted as evidence.

In some cases the dataset used was too small or calculations were based only on subset of the data. Evidence of the sources used must be included in the Portfolio.

N3.3: In a minority of cases the presentation method used was not appropriate for the type of data or reasons for its use were not provided. Interpretation of presentation methods was sometimes omitted.

When assessors/moderators are reassessing against the Level 2 standards they must ensure that the student has provided evidence of using a graph or chart source.

Annotation

Generally portfolios were annotated however inaccurate results cannot be claimed as evidence of meeting a criterion. In most cases the documentation was completed appropriately.

Evidence of Internal Moderation

Some Portfolios had been countersigned and in some cases a report or comments from the Internal Moderator were forwarded for external moderation purposes. All centres must include evidence of Internal Moderation.