



Extended Project Qualification

Standardising: submission May 2009

Marks and notes for samples

Samples 21–24 are based upon work submitted for the Extended Project Qualification in November 2008. As such, the work evidenced began in the later stages of the pilot of the qualification and the pro-forma production log pages may differ in detail from those provided for submission in May 2009.

The evidence has been edited slightly to remove identifying information. More importantly some or all of the original supervisor's comment has been removed for standardising purposes. This is to encourage concentration on the work of the candidate without overmuch 'leading' — supervisors' annotation and comment often helpfully refers to the assessment objectives and criteria.

*In use for a standardising exercise it is helpful to note where supervisor comment would have been helpful and necessary in some cases to take an approach, **for this exercise**, that credits marginally implicit achievement which would in practice require confirmation by the supervisor.*

The approach in marking should be to review the whole of the evidence then, for each assessment objective, to decide in which band the mark lies, to then decide what additional marks may be awarded to raise the mark in that band. In the upper band it may be helpful to review the A grade description before allocating marks in the upper half of that band.*

The professional assessment of the supervisor will always be more valid than that of an outsider (external moderation is by centre rather than individual candidate and a small tolerance is allowed by moderators). The marks given below are the actual post-moderation marks for each sample.

Chosen to represent the range of marks, these samples were also selected to illustrate other points that are noted below.

Sample 21

Dress made from recycled materials

	Assessment objectives		
AO1	Manage	10	5
AO2	Use resources	10	6
AO3	Develop and realise	20	11
AO4	Review	10	4
	TOTAL	50	26

C/D
borderline

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Notes on the marks

- This sample typifies the 'some' achievement of the middle band
- The product aimed for has been substantially (although not completely) achieved
- Various problems (loss of model, difficult sewing technique developed for plastic bags) were overcome with appropriate planning (e.g. one part of garment in full rather than all incomplete)
- Some research — the work of the designer upon whose work the dress design is based — and the way that designer's work is reflected in the final product — are mentioned briefly or implicit and required supervisor confirmation for additional marks in the middle band for AO2 and AO3
- The written report is rather short and fails to explore the rationale (relation of the design to original research) reflected in the relatively lower mark in AO4

Additional notes

The importance of supervisor comment is emphasised BUT note that it is expected that the candidate should own their pages of the production log. On page 4 it would be preferable to see a record of what the candidate has heard their supervisor say — supervisors may comment elsewhere if what is heard fails to reflect what was said.

Sample 22 Alexander the Great

	Assessment objectives		
AO1	Manage	10	9
AO2	Use resources	10	10
AO3	Develop and realise	20	19
AO4	Review	10	9
	TOTAL	50	47

A*

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Notes on the marks

- This sample typifies an A* and may be used to illustrate the grade description

Additional notes

Note that in this case the supervisor was also the centre coordinator and so the signature of the line manager for assessment was additionally required for project approval (page 7 of the production log).

The additional supervisor comment on the presentation following page 13 of the production log are extremely helpful but such full notes are not required — a few bullet points may suffice.

Sample 23

Economic development of Mauritius

	Assessment objectives		
AO1	Manage	10	9
AO2	Use resources	10	8
AO3	Develop and realise	20	18
AO4	Review	10	8
	TOTAL	50	43

solid
A

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Notes on the marks

- This sample is solidly in the upper mark bands but does not quite show the insight and reasoning required at the very top. In particular, despite some adjustment after acknowledging the supervisor's comment in review and recognising the fact, the candidate fails to adjust the conclusion to reflect the evidence that has been obtained.

Additional notes

An outline of the population study on which this work is based is common in geography and other A level specifications. This is a good example of an extended study in depth that begins from but goes well beyond other course requirements in its research and use of material. In this case the candidate is also using skills gained in other areas — some centres have found it helpful to encourage candidates to choose a topic that allows them to combine skills gained in several courses. This is noted in the supervisor's comments on the project proposal and it should be noted that in submitting marks supervisors confirm that there is no dual submission for other accredited qualifications.

Note that while citation and referencing in this sample are excellent in establishing range of source, authenticity and authority, it is not usual at this level to distinguish types of source in the reference list but rather to list all sources alphabetically by author.

Sample 24 Architecture

	Assessment objectives		
AO1	Manage	10	2
AO2	Use resources	10	4
AO3	Develop and realise	20	5
AO4	Review	10	2
	TOTAL	50	13

U/E
borderline

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Notes on the marks

- This sample typifies the 'limited' achievement of the lower band
- The product aimed for has just about been achieved but the written report is not of the standard expected at level 3 and the whole is 'rescued' — in terms of giving marks beyond zero — by the presentation and accompanying notes that illustrate research, selection and knowledge gained on the topic.
- Note that while achieving some marks for work that has undoubtedly led to the student gaining some depth of knowledge that they can communicate verbally this submission did not achieve a passing grade. It is not good enough for award of the extended project qualification.

Additional notes

The importance of supervisor encouragement and appropriate guidance at all stages might be emphasised.

At this level an appropriate use of a citation and referencing scheme is expected. It is good practice for supervisors to ask candidates to supply (a sample of) printouts from websites researched but these should not form part of the final product.