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4th February 2014

Dear Head of Art and Design,

In September 2013, Ofqual amended the General Conditions of Recognition in respect of GCE and Applied GCE Qualifications. Recent technical consultations have now confirmed that the same conditions are forthcoming for GCSE qualifications. These conditions will have an impact on the moderation of GCSE, GCE and Applied GCE Art & Design qualifications from the June 2014 exam session.

The General Conditions of Recognition now state that:

"an awarding organisation must ensure that it does not communicate to a Centre or a Learner confirmation of, or changes to, any mark for an assessment in advance of the issue of that result."

A full copy of this updated document can be found on the Ofqual website at <http://ofqual.gov.uk/how-we-regulate/regulatory-documents/>.

To date, during your moderation visit for GCSE, GCE and Applied GCE Art & Design you have received direct verbal feedback from your moderator about the marks you have given student work, and may have been advised as to whether the marking is in line with the assessment standard, or if there are any discrepancies. As a direct result of this change in the General Conditions of Recognition, we will no longer be permitted to offer this feedback as part of your moderation visit or prior to the issue of results.

We want to reassure you that no other part of the moderation process with Edexcel will be changing as a result of this. The moderator can continue to have a general discussion about your approach to assessing the work prior to moderating. However to ensure we comply with these regulations your moderator will not be able to discuss the accuracy of your marking or an individual candidate's marks at any point during the moderation process.

The detailed written feedback report (E9 Report) will still be available as a support to you on results day, and will provide all the information you need about the accuracy of your assessment in relation to the assessment criteria, and general comments on the administration of the moderation visit. You can access your reports from results day at



www.edexcelonline.co.uk using your Edexcel Online username and password. We will make every effort to ensure these reports are even more in-depth and supportive to your assessment in light of this new regulation.

This change to our ability to feedback directly following the moderation visit does not affect our ongoing commitment to support teachers and students of the arts in every way we can. We have a wide range of support materials available via our free exemplar materials online, training events and dedicated subject advisory team.

Pearson are passionate about education in the arts, and will continue to provide a high quality framework for students to learn, grow and achieve in the creative subjects, and enable teachers to deliver this in a personalised way.

Included with this letter is a list of questions and answers about this change. If you have any other queries please contact one of the resources listed at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Joel Cable

Qualifications Delivery and Award Manager
Art & Design, Drama, Performing Arts, Creative & Media
General Qualifications Assessment
Pearson Qualification Services

Questions and Answers

Q. Why is Pearson removing this feature of the moderation visit?

A. Recent Ofqual conditions of recognition for all awarding bodies require that no communication relating to potential mark changes can take place before results are issued. The verbal feedback falls under this type of pre-results communication about marks. This regulation applies to all Awarding Organisations.

Q. Moderator's don't discuss individual candidate marks. Doesn't this mean we can still be told in general whether we marked accurately or not?

A. Unfortunately any communication that indicates that marks may change prior to the results being released is no longer permitted. Even general or broad statements about marking accuracy are considered an indication of changes to marks prior to results, and are in breach of these regulations.

Q. Will the moderator be able to give any other feedback if they don't discuss marking?

A. Moderator's are trained to apply marks accurately and consistently across GCSE and GCE Art endorsements in all centres, but they are not trained to give guidance on course delivery. Verbal feedback has strictly been a means to indicate the accuracy of assessment, and not a way to give personal guidance, so for this reason moderators won't be able to discuss anything after their moderation has been carried out. They will however be able to have a general discussion about your approach to marking the work prior to moderating.

Q. How will I improve my marking if I don't discuss it directly with the moderator?

A. The moderator will complete a detailed written E9 feedback report about your marking accuracy. This will be delivered to you along with student's results on results day. It will contain information about specific areas of the assessment criteria where marking issues have been observed, and where they have been applied accurately. Each endorsement will be addressed individually for each unit if there are differences in the way marks have been applied across them. We will work hard to ensure the level of support provided in these documents is complete and constructive.

Q. Will this change affect any other aspect of the moderation process?

A. No, the rest of the process will remain unchanged.

Q. When will this come into effect?

A. These new regulations will come into effect for the June 2014 exam series, so will be in place for any moderation visits from 2014. This regulation will last for the lifetime of the specification.

Q. As the verbal feedback is being removed, will additional support be given in other ways?

A. We will continue to provide high-quality examples of marked candidate work on our website, which are available to all centres for free. These are available across a range of marks and endorsements. New examples will be added in April 2014 to support you as you mark your candidate work for moderation this summer. We offer training events and centre-based training which include real examples of candidate work to be assessed and discussed with a senior Art examiner. We also have a wide range of other support on the Art section of the Edexcel website.

Q. Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

A. If you have any further questions, our dedicated subject advisor and assessment team are on hand to help; or you can submit a question to one of the senior examiners of Art & Design through our Ask the Expert service.

Art & Design Subject Advisor	Email: TeachingArtandDesign@pearson.com Tel: 0844 576 0032
Art & Design Assessment Team	E-mail: Creative.Arts@pearson.com
Ask the Expert Service	http://www.edexcel.com/aboutus/contact-us/ask-expert/Pages/home.aspx
GCSE Art & Design Assessment page with Exemplar candidate work (under Teacher Support Materials)	http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/art/Pages/default.aspx
GCE Art & Design Assessment page with Exemplar candidate work (under Teacher Support Materials)	http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gce/gce08/art/Pages/default.aspx