Cambridge Technicals

Science

Level 2 Science Certificate/Extended Certificate/Diploma – **05783**, **05785**, **05788**

OCR Report to Centres September 2016

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OCR REPORT TO CENTRES

Cambridge Technical Science Level 2 – 05783-05788

1 Overview:

Centres are using a number of delivery models: some centres are delivering one Unit at a time sequentially, others are delivering more than one Unit at a time using subject-specialist teaching staff.

Evidence has generally been presented in the form of written work produced by the candidate: this has taken the form of PowerPoint presentations, leaflets, and reports. Where witness statements are used to support assessment evidence it is important that the witness statement is detailed and provides sufficient evidence and justification for the award of credit. As such, witness statements should be unique and specific to individual candidates.

Centres are encouraged to provide both formative and summative feedback to candidates as part of the assessment process, although that feedback should not be overly directive in terms of any improvements that candidates are required to make – feedback should identify weaknesses in candidates' evidence, not offer instructions as to how any weaknesses can be addressed.

OCR Unit Recording Sheets must be used to record candidate achievement and these are available in the qualification area of the OCR website. These should be fully-completed, to include: the individual Assessment Criteria awarded for each Learning Outcome (P1, P2, M1, M2, D1, D2 etc.), the Grade awarded for each Learning Outcome, some Teacher Comments to justify the Assessment Criteria/Grade awarded (this can assist the moderator in understanding how assessment decisions have been reached), and an indication as to the page number/location within the portfolio where the evidence can be found.

The majority of assessors are annotating candidate work to indicate where credit towards Assessment criteria has been given; alongside the signposting of evidence location on the URS this is very helpful to both Visiting Moderators and for internal moderation.

It is a requirement of the qualification that internal moderation of assessment decisions takes place – a guide to internal standardisation is available on the qualification area of the OCR website. Internal standardisation must cover all Units delivered, every assessor in a Unit, and all grades awarded. There is a field on the URS which should be completed to indicate which portfolios have been subject to internal moderation. Records of internal moderation should be kept, and should be made available to the Visiting Moderator – for each Unit these should include dates of internal moderation, candidates' names, name of internal moderator, outcomes of moderation, and feedback to assessors.

Centres are reminded that claims for moderation must be uploaded onto Interchange at least two weeks prior to the agreed moderation visit date. When entering candidate grades the member of staff responsible for assessing the evidence must be identified, as every assessor within a Unit must be sampled as part of the visiting moderation process – some centres are still entering the initials of the programme leader against every candidate.

2 General Comments

In general, evidence presented for moderation was appropriate for Level 2 in both depth and breadth and met the requirements of the specification. However, there is a tendency for centres to be lenient in their interpretation of the Assessment Criteria when assessing candidates' work,

and consequently some over-grading of candidates' work was noted by Visiting Moderators. It was evident that some centres had not referred to the Teaching Content within the Unit specifications when delivering content, and as a result candidates' evidence did not match the Assessment Criteria.

Centres are also reminded that the use of writing-frames, work-sheets, and other scaffolding is not permitted in the generation of assessment evidence, although they may be used for teaching purposes.

The majority of centres have taken care to ensure the authenticity of candidates' work, although Visiting Moderators have reported instances where candidates have downloaded material from the Internet and presented it as their own – centres must ensure that candidates properly reference sources of information, this is frequently overlooked where diagrams/pictures are sourced from the Internet.

3 Comments on Individual Units

Unit 1 – Science of the Earth (Core/Mandatory)

Assessment Criterion M2 (for LO2) requires candidates to describe how scientists [sic] minimise the impacts of changes to the earth's surface/lithosphere in populated areas. The reference to scientists is often limited to making predictions, and the evidence then focuses on how this can be used to assist in the response of the emergency services. There is a need for centres to place greater emphasis on the development of modelling and the development of materials and structures that can withstand catastrophic impacts.

Assessment Criteria D1 (for LO1) and D3 (for LO3) require candidates to evaluate rather than describe the topics concerned. Centres are awarding these Assessment Criteria when there is minimal or no evaluation present – this was identified as a weakness in the 2014-15 Report to Centres.

Unit 8 – Science of Health (Optional)

Assessment Criteria D1 (for LO1), D3 (for LO2), and D4 (for LO4) require candidates to analyse or evaluate rather than simply explain or describe. Centres have been awarding these Assessment Criteria when there is minimal or no evaluation present: evaluation requires that candidates review a range of information/evidence including strengths/weaknesses/alternative actions and bring it together to form a supported judgement/conclusion about the topic concerned.

4 Sector Update

The final deadlines for both final registration and certification of candidates have been extended to 30th April 2019 and 31st August 2022 respectively – this will allow a final cohort to commence the qualification in September 2018, with three academic years to complete certification.

The following resources are available on the OCR website:
- Centre Handbook
- Internal Standardisation Guide
- Unit Recording Sheets
- Candidate Authentication Statement
- Rules of Combination Calculator

- Learner Progress Tracker
- Student Guide
- Lost Centre-Assessed Work Form
- Unit Specifications
- Skills Guides
- OCR Reports to Centres
- Witness Statement
- Model Assignment – Unit 1
- Delivery Guide – Units 1, 3, 7, 10, 14
- Introductory Presentation – Units 1, 3, 7, 10, 14
- Resources Links – Units 1, 3, 7, 10, 14

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