

# Report on National Moderation

## of the

### National Diploma in Business Computing

#### undertaken by the

#### National Advisory Committee on Computer Qualifications

## September 1997

The modules moderated were:

<u>Module</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Moderator</u>
BA100	14	Leonie Bridgeman (Taranaki Polytechnic)
HF100	15	Pat Mole (Waiariki Polytechnic)
OS100	10	Jeff Simpson (Taranaki Polytechnic)
PD100	12	Trevor Nesbit (Aoraki Polytechnic)
PR10n	4	Rudi van den Brink (Christchurch Polytechnic)
AA200	2	Leonie Bridgeman (Taranaki Polytechnic)
EP200	2	Rudi van den Brink (Christchurch Polytechnic)
FS200	1	Jeff Simpson (Taranaki Polytechnic)
PR21n	6	Rudi van den Brink (Christchurch Polytechnic)
SA200	8	Gay Costain (Auckland Institute of Technology)
SC200	0	none received
SS200	5	Pat Mole (Waiariki Polytechnic)
DC300	4	Garry Robertson (The Waikato Polytechnic)
IS300	2	Leonie Bridgeman (Taranaki Polytechnic)
PR340	1	Jeff Simpson (Taranaki Polytechnic)
SP300	<u>4</u>	Trevor Nesbit (Aoraki Polytechnic)
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The total number of modules moderated is up on past moderations (81 in May 97, 73 in September 96, 62 in May 96, 85 in September 95) with nineteen polytechnics submitting material for moderation, two more than the previous round.

Continuing attention again must be paid to supplying all four types of material - Module Outline, Assessment Schedule, All Assessments, All Marking Schedules. Providing such is improving. The increasing "Suggested changes to the prescription" coming from the moderators shows both an overall maturing in the processes of NDBC assessment and the need to keep prescriptions up to date.

Moderators stated the following suggested changes to the prescription:

- AA200 Pat 2 Need to change terminology to reflect current accounting practice, in connection with report names.
- BA100 Lets get rid of "T" format. Balance sheets. Need to change 2.8 to reflect current terminology - Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position.
- DC300 Overdue for a complete review of content. Needs rewriting in learning outcomes format.
- HF100 Prescription should be brought up to date (add multi media hardware) and allow for emerging hardware. By using generic classes, it should be possible to rewrite without having to update the prescription each time another new item is developed.

- Some of the more elementary items (do students really have to demonstrate that they can use a shift or tab key?) could be removed.
- IS300 Topic 6 Change examples of new technologies??
- OS100 Topic 3 - 'third party' utilities needs updating or deleting. Many of the features provided by such utilities are now part of the OSs. For this reason the majority of polytechnics are neglecting utilities as in the prescription.
- PD100 Some though should be given to moving the program documentation part of PD100 into PP100.
- PR21n Under Content: Change "Indexed Sequential file maintenance" to "file maintenance".  
Delete "Job Control Language (JCL)"
- SA200 More specific learning outcomes are required. The requirement to "Apply other diagramming techniques appropriate to the system" was interpreted as PERT and Gantt charts, by one polytech, as entity life histories or logical access maps, by others, these techniques were not always applied to one system used in previous assignments.  
It could be more meaningful to request that the tools are all applied to one system, in order to demonstrate the interrelationship (e.g. entities become datastores in logical DFDs).  
Some indication of size of system (e.g. number of entities, processes) would produce greater equivalencies between polytechs - but a definition of complexity would be difficult to specify.
- SP300 Possibly including the use of real world situations provided the level of needs & level of difficulty of installation can be checked for consistency across students.

The above must be taken into consideration primarily by the NACCQ NDBC Working Group.

A copy of the three yearly NDBC External Moderation Guidelines and Moderation Schedule is attached. Note that PJ300 PROJECT is being moderated for the first time in the next round (April 1998), and what is required for the moderation of this unique module.

Due at NACCQ office by 14th March 1998 are:

NM100	PR130	SF100	US100			
AA220	DB200	HS200	IG200	SA21n	SD200	SP200
EP300	FG300	IS310	PJ300	PR350		

This round of moderation has taken longer than normal. This is due to some polytechnics sending in moderation material three weeks after the closing date and to two moderators' material being received on 3rd November, also three weeks overdue, while the other moderators returned their material within the allocated four weeks. Nevertheless the process is working for the ongoing monitoring and enhancement of NDBC.

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