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Circular No. 169

To: Exams Officer/ Head of Science

Our reference / Ein cyfeirnod

HG/MLJ/Circ.No. 169

Contact / Cysylltwch â

Gareth Kelly

Date / Dyddiad

April 2009

Dear Exams Officer / Head of Science

GCSE Science

At recent INSET sessions for GCSE Science, additional clarification was provided in relation to the internal assessment of practical tasks for the 2008-09 series.

The documents provided at these INSET sessions contain additional annotations which provide further examples of acceptable and unacceptable candidate responses: these reflect the clarifications which have also been provided during the year to centres who have sought advice from WJEC on specific points of interpretation. The documents are intended to provide additional exemplifications for centres, and they also provide the basis for the instructions provided to external moderators.

Please note that this does not imply any expectation or requirement that centres should revisit those assessments which have already been undertaken during 2008-09. The marking schemes provided at the outset for the Practical Tasks for 2008-09 remain a perfectly appropriate basis for internal assessments for GCSE Science. The moderators' role is to determine whether or not a centre's marking is sufficiently closely aligned with the standards as defined in the original marking scheme, but clarified through these additional exemplifications. If there is evidence of undue severity or generosity relative to this overall guidance, a centre's marks become amenable to adjustment under standard procedures. Should any centre be deemed to have applied the marking scheme in a way which is consistently more severe than the interpretation offered in the additional exemplifications, then our procedures are such that a moderation adjustment would be applied to compensate for that. The same applies of course, with an adjustment in the opposite direction, in the case of centres deemed to be consistently more generous than the marking scheme including the interpretation offered in the additional exemplifications.

Should you require any additional clarification in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Subject Officer for Science, Gareth Kelly on 02920 265 081 or email gareth.kelly@wjec.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

DEREC STOCKLEY

Director of Examinations and Assessment