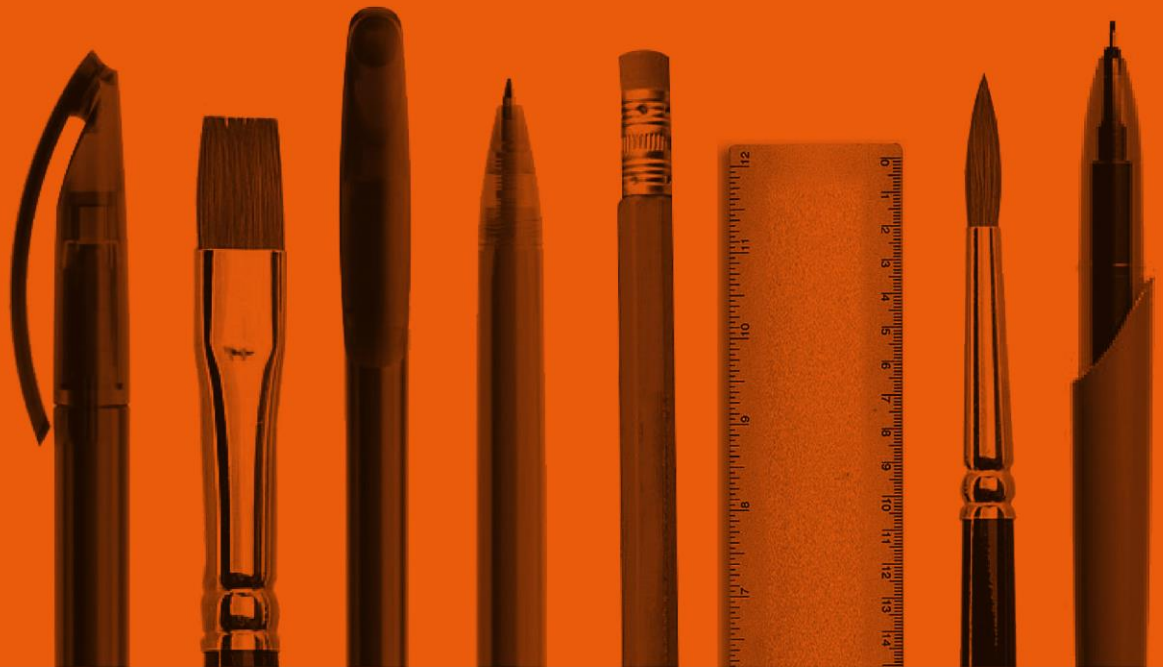
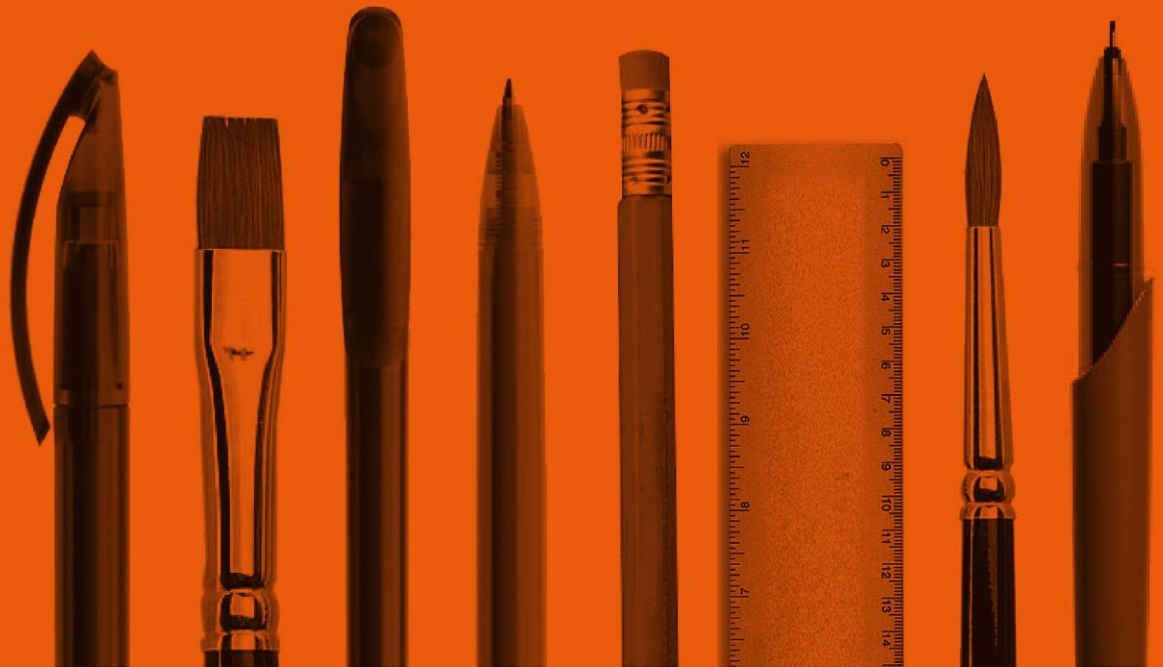


Practical Endorsement



The monitoring visit



The purpose

The purpose of the visit is to ensure that centres are:

- implementing practical endorsement appropriately
- applying the assessment criteria (CPAC) correctly

*The monitoring process is **not** intended to:*

- moderate or adjust the results of individual candidates

How visits are planned

- Each centre will be visited at least once, in at least one of the sciences, during the period January 2016 to May 2017
 - i.e. learners could be seen in either the first or second year of their A level course
- If a centre has 140+ learners in any of the A level sciences then each science in that centre will have a monitoring visit from their AO

Monitors

Monitors:

- are subject specialists
- represent the AO they have been appointed for
- only monitor the subject in a centre which is following the specification of the AO they represent
- should not have any contact with other sciences in the centre following other AO specifications

Evidence that needs to be available:

1. Documented plans to carry out sufficient practical activities
2. A record of each practical activity undertaken and the date when this was completed
3. A record of the criteria being assessed in that practical activity
4. A record of student attendance
5. A record of which student met the criteria and which did not;
6. Student work showing evidence required for the particular task with date
7. Any associated materials provided for the practical activity e.g. written instructions given

The day of the visit

The monitor will:

- meet the Lead teacher
- observe a lesson including a practical activity
- discuss the teacher's CPAC assessment of the students
- meet students and discuss the practical work that students have been doing
- view the work of students from lesson
- view teachers' records of assessment of practical work.

Feedback from the visits completed so far

- Nearly all centres are passing (nationally the first visit pass rate is approximately 90%)
- Very positive
- Excellent practice being seen
- Evident more practical work is being completed
- Lots of extra equipment being used
- Change of emphasis in practical work from needing to get the “right” answer to the right answer is the one your data presents

Key issues for centres not meeting the requirements

- Not engaging with the training
- Treating activities like controlled assessments under exam conditions
- Treating activities as coursework to be written up
- Treating individual activities as pass / fail
- Level of competence set too low or too high
- Not looking at students working, just recording the date carried out
- Staffing patterns and staff changes

Key points to consider

- Both the techniques covered and the competencies passed need to be recorded
- There is no exact number to define what constitutes: "consistently and routinely exhibits all five competencies in order to be awarded a Pass"
- Some teacher records are too detailed
- Endorsement lends itself to the use of both formative and peer assessment
- Lab books do not have to be beautifully presented – they are working documents

Key points to consider

- Technician status and contract hours is proving to be a barrier in some schools and colleges
- Lack of practical equipment is sometimes an issue

The future of monitoring visits

- They will continue
- The proportion of centres to be visited and the frequency of the visits has yet to be determined
- The body that will continue to collect the data (still JCQ?) also has yet to be decided
- More information to follow

The competencies



The criteria

- | | |
|--------|---|
| CPAC 1 | Follows written procedures |
| CPAC 2 | Applies investigative approaches and methods when using instruments and equipment |
| CPAC 3 | Safely uses a range of practical equipment and materials |
| CPAC 4 | Makes and records observations |
| CPAC 5 | Researches, references and reports |

The criteria for a pass

- In order to be awarded a Pass a Learner must, by the end of the practical science assessment, consistently and routinely meet the criteria in respect of each competency.
- A Learner may demonstrate the competencies in any practical activity undertaken as part of that assessment throughout the course of study.

General key points about the competencies

- Need to plan for a suitable balance on the competencies over the 2 years
- No need to sub-divide the competencies up
- Don't try and assess all the CPAC standards in one practical

CPAC 1

Key points to note:

- This is generally being done well

CPAC 2

Key points to note:

- This CPAC should focus on the choice of equipment
- This will be covered more in Year 13 than Year 12
- It needs to be clear that there are planned opportunities for it to take place in Year 13
- Sometimes being awarded in Year 12 where the students don't really have the opportunity to design the experiment

CPAC 3

Key points to note:

- This is generally being done well

CPAC 4

Key points to note:

- Being used incorrectly to assess the graph it mainly involves the table of raw data
- Tables and graphs not always presented well (e.g. dot to dot in Biology)
- Scientific drawings not always at an acceptable standard
- Quality of raw data recording was quite variable
- Level of precision was inconsistent
- Results should not be copied up later
- Should come from the setting up of their own equipment and not the choice

CPAC 5

Key points to note:

- There are two parts –
 - processing data and carrying out research and reporting findings
 - referencing
- Data may be processed using mathematical relationships or using graphs. Spreadsheets can be used but tools could also include more traditional methods.

A monitor's perspective



- Main focus is on paper work to check things are being recorded and they are embedded in the SoW.
- One practical will be observed where CPACs are being assessed N.B. monitors observe how a teacher assesses the CPACs and **not** the teaching.
- The teacher and the students will be *interviewed* but it is usually to check that this lesson is no different to any other lesson.
- The monitor will want to see the records of **all** students, and the practicals of everyone in the practical observed and at least 2 from every other set.
- The idea of the visit is more about providing guidance not passing/failing centres.

- Get the assessment paper work in order, particularly teacher's records of the CPACs covered and attendance.
- HoDs to store these records centrally to make sure students are progressing and gaining more CPACs by the time they are in Year 13
- It is likely for pedagogical reasons you will want to give students far more feedback than is required by the AOs. Perhaps create a template that lets students see some sort of progression.

- Don't let students take their practical books out of the department. As the lab books are no longer going to be published it may make sense to print out the practicals for a file to be kept in the department.
- Students can be assessed on practicals not in the practical book just add them to your records for the practical endorsement.

On all Eduqas A level science web pages (under all course materials):

- Lab book
- Teacher / technician guidance for specified practicals
- General student practical guidance
- CPAC links
- Practical endorsement FAQs
- The practical endorsement standard
- Student record
- Teacher record

Pen portraits (included in your pack)

CPD material from Autumn 2015 (available on the secure website in the CPD folder in the resources folder)

Entries for the practical endorsement



Practical science statement

This is a true and accurate written statement made by a centre to their AO which confirms that for each learner the centre has ensured that they have:

- (a) completed at least 12 practical activities as required by the awarding organisation, and
- (b) made a contemporaneous record of the work which that learner has undertaken during those practical activities.

Practical science statement

This will be covered by the annual head of centre declaration form which will be sent to all centres and the headteacher will be required to sign.

Submission of results

By 15 May via the WJEC secure website each centre will have to enter for each candidate their result in the practical endorsement.

Any Questions?

If you have any queries please contact -

helen.francis@eduqas.co.uk

