



**General Certificate of Secondary Education**

**English/English Language**

**Specification 4700/4705**

**ENG02: Speaking and Listening**

**Report on the Examination**

*2012 Examination – November series*

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## GCSE English/English Language

### Principal Moderator's Report Unit 2 (ENG02)

This short report relates to Unit 2 Speaking and Listening for the special November resit of GCSE English/Language in November 2012.

The report for this unit in Summer 2012 noted the following key principle:

*Talking to teachers at meetings and on visits they ... want to be assured that parity is being maintained across all centres. AQA and its team of advisers and moderators have worked very hard this year to ensure that there is indeed parity across centres when it comes to awarding candidates their marks in this unit.*

After centres were told to submit records for all students entered, the records were reviewed. Here are the major findings and their implications:

- Some centres awarded marks for this unit which were well out of line with marks in other units. These centres will be visited as a matter of priority.
- Records sometimes referred to quite low level skills before showing a mark in band 4 or even band 5. In these cases teachers made some effort to describe what took place, but matching this to the criteria was less evident. Matching it to exemplification in DVDs was almost non-existent. Where this happened centres will be visited as a matter of priority in the coming term.
- There were, disappointingly, quite a few centres still using the method of record keeping which simply highlights the criteria. This method does not allow the precise number to be pin-pointed and must not be used in future. Where this was the only evidence, with no other support, the centres will be visited as a matter of priority in the next term.
- In several centres teachers were still suggesting that they were in fact awarding grades, as well as marks. This shows an ongoing failure to understand the awarding process.
- Any entry for this unit had to include a new submission of fresh work.
- In a few cases there was worrying evidence of possible deception, with dates and marks on old records apparently changed and presented as new. These centres will be referred to the AQA malpractice unit.

There were also, of course, centres who: used a wide range of marks; made clear reference to the skills of the criteria while analysing precisely the actual performance being marked; made comparative comments with the DVDs; and who had clearly standardised across teaching groups. Such centres deserve their interests to be safeguarded, which is why there will be considerably more priority visits made to centres in the light of this November sitting and in the light of statistical evidence which arises from this and further sittings of the unit. We will continue to work hard in our attempt to deliver parity across centres, and to support an adherence to the standard exemplified in our standardising DVDs.

Centres should note that further DVD evidence is now available via the first Rochdale DVD, and it is vital that such evidence underpins the marks teachers give their own students.