

2011 and 2016 Reviews

Jake Wills <jake.wills@kc.school.nz>

15 March 2017 at 21:19

To: Kristine Kilkelly <Kristine.Kilkelly@nzqa.govt.nz>, Lyall Prestidge <Lyall.Prestidge@nzqa.govt.nz>

Hi Kristine,

Thank you for the review that came out today, and the level of seriousness in which NZQA has approached this matter.

I am concerned though that one of the major findings from the 2016 review is almost identical to the findings of the 2011 review into the papers, that once the examinations have reached a final form that an additional person should check the examinations and write out full solutions to the paper that is compared with the earlier solutions.

Extract from 2011 review:

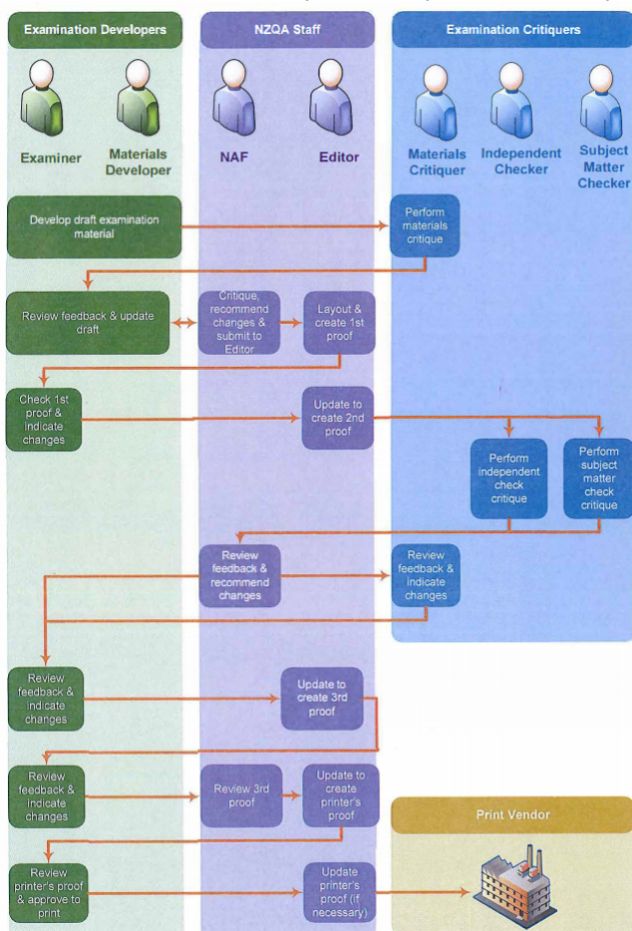
Recommendation 1.

Each examiner should have an associated co-examiner, *in addition to any who are involved in setting the papers*, whose sole purpose is to check that the papers reflect the associated standards and that they are free of errors and confusing wording. The examiner and this co-examiner should *independently* write out model answers each time a question is composed or altered. These answers should be compared; when differences occur, the source of confusion should be understood and eliminated. Perhaps a signing-off process could be in place to ensure that these steps are taken seriously.

Recommendation 2.

An additional person should check the examinations when they have reached what is hoped to be their final form. This person should be an expert in the associated area of mathematics. Perhaps two or three such people could cover all the examinations. These persons, too, should write out full solutions to compare with the earlier solutions.

This doesn't seem to line up with the process that is presented on page 8 of the 2016 review



Can I therefore ask, were the changes from the 2011 review taken, and if so, what changed between then and 2016, and what assurance do we have that the changes from the 2016 review will be treated differently?

Kind Regards,
Jake Wills

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Kristine Kilkelly <Kristine.Kilkelly@nzqa.govt.nz>

17 March 2017 at 16:28

To: Jake Wills <jake.wills@kc.school.nz>

Dear Jake

Thank you for your email of 15 March about the 2011 and 2016 reviews of Mathematics examinations. I promised to get back to you today.

I have set out some additional background on the 2011 review which I hope will be helpful.

The recommendation from 2011, that examinations are checked “when they have reached what is hoped to be their final form”, is reflected in the diagram on page 8 of the 2016 review report. Every examiner has what the 2011 report referred to as a ‘co-examiner’ who is not involved in setting the examination but who checks the examination before submission as a final draft to NZQA. This person is referred to as the Materials Critiquer (MC).

When the paper has been set up into its final form the dual checks of the Independent Checker (IC) and the Subject Matter Checker (SMC) are carried out. They have separate roles: the IC to do the paper as a candidate (ie write answers, without the assessment schedule), and the SMC to check curriculum level, subject accuracy and standard accuracy alongside the assessment schedule. Each L3 maths examination is checked by two MCs, one IC and one SMC.

The IC and SMC reports may recommend changes to be made, but these are not usually significant changes because the need for significant changes is normally identified earlier in the process. In L3 Statistics 91585 there was a late change after this stage when mathematical specialists other than the examining team had checked the paper. This is the point of the particular risk that was identified by the 2016 report ie a change post the various checkers (MC, IC, SMC).

Changes will and should be made after the IC and SMC checks in response to their feedback. Late significant changes need a clearly defined checking process. That is the focus of the 2016 report, and we are acting to implement those recommendations for the 2017 examinations. The process now involves another full independent check of any significant changes, including obviously, a question re-write as in 91585, before proceeding to the editorial proofs and subsequently printing.

I can assure you that we are acting with urgency to implement and embed all the recommendations of the 2016 review.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards

Kristine

Kristine Kilkelly