STUDYING ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

A RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS

E J Bell J R Allen



The assistance of teachers from Mackay State High School and Rockhampton State High School is gratefully acknowledged.

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National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication data

Bell, E. J. (Erica Jane), 1962 – Studying assessment practices: a resource for teachers in schools.

ISBN 0724265643.

1. Grading and marking (Students) – Queensland. 2. Educational tests and measurements – Queensland. I. Allen, J. R. (J. Reg). II. Queensland. Board of Senior Secondary School Studies

373.12609943

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Foreword

Since the introduction of the Radford system of school-based assessment in Queensland in 1975 and the development of the present system following the ROSBA review in 1981, there has been a need for research into the quality and effectiveness of this system. The Board has met these needs with research that is characterised by the active participation of the teaching community. This modest study in response to interest from teachers in Queensland is no exception. It is a resource for teachers developed with the input of teachers who considered questions about assessment practices relevant to their own school contexts. The contribution of these and other Queensland teachers to the Board's research effort continues to be valued and appreciated by staff of the Board.

The extent to which teachers in Queensland are interested in studying assessment practices is, I believe, one measure of the professionalism brought to the assessment work they perform. I commend the study to you as a document that offers teachers a useful tool for discussion of assessment practices relevant to the Queensland system of school-based assessment.

John Pitman **Director**

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Aims

Some Queensland schools have shown interest in the development of a guideline for stimulating discussion about assessment practices in schools. In response to this interest, a checklist of questions about assessment practices useful for in-service purposes was developed. This report offers a discussion of the outcome of one in-service session with a group of teachers where the checklist was 'road-tested' for its relevance to school-based assessment contexts.

The report also offers some information that may be useful in designing a statewide study of assessment practices. It is not a report of assessment practices at any particular school or schools. It is a document that was designed to offer schools a useful resource to promote discussion about assessment practices. Teachers who participated in the study were offering their opinions and expertise in developing such a resource. Their input should be interpreted accordingly.

Methods, strategies and scope of study

Summary

The project is a small field study, confined to discussion and analysis of applications of Short Response Item (SRI) Immersion notes for Units 2 and 7 of the SRI paper for the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test. It relates specifically to marking schemes used in the 1994 SRI marking operation. These parts of the SRI Immersion notes were chosen because they relate to two very different kinds of assessment items, and offer a useful point of departure for the development of materials relevant to a range of different school marking contexts.

As part of the study, the Evaluation, Research and Development (ER&D) Division developed a checklist of assessment practices and presented it to 15 teachers at a small workshop. The workshop was facilitated by the school's deputy principal with an officer of the ER&D Division in attendance in a support and observation capacity.

At the workshop, teachers completed the checklist by indicating the extent to which each question on the checklist was relevant to their own marking contexts.

Phase one: Preparation of the checklist of questions relevant to marking processes

In this phase of the study, a checklist was developed by analysing the 1994 SRI marking schemes for Units 2 and 7. This first draft of the checklist is included in appendix 1.

However, the elaborate marking schemes used in the QCS Test marking operation were developed for a very specific context. Appendix 2 contains materials developed for teacher use at the workshop and represents the answer developed by the ER&D Division in response to the question, 'How can the questions suggested by the SRI Immersion notes [in appendix 1] be further developed into a set of questions that teachers may find relevant?'.

Appendix 2 shows how the SRI Immersion notes may be applicable to teacher marking situations, particularly practices of reflection upon marking processes. The questionnaire was designed so that teachers could tick one of four boxes in response to each question, in this way indicating the relevance and practicability of that question to their own contexts.

Phase two: Teacher feedback

The workshop with teachers was held on the 23 November 1994. The 15 participating teachers were asked to bring assessment items with them that they judged to resemble Units 2 and 7 of the SRI paper for the QCS Test; for example, assessment items that included one or more of the following core curriculum elements (CCEs) assessed by these units:

- calculating
- applying a progression of steps
- comparing and contrasting
- using correct spelling and punctuation
- deducing
- judging
- using vocabulary appropriate to a context.

The workshop was conducted as a single four-hour in-service session with two parts:

• Part one — Identifying performance domains (including CCEs)

Purpose: To identify knowledge and skills, including CCEs, measured by given assessment items with a view to also understanding the design of assessment instruments.

Activity: Teachers were asked to use the first part of the checklist to examine one of their own classroom assessment items and develop lists of knowledge, skills and CCEs measured by this assessment item.

• Part two — Assessment practices

Purpose: To reflect upon marking processes and provide feedback about the practicality of the second part of the checklist.

- Activity: 1. Individual activity: Teachers were asked to read and respond to part two of the checklist by indicating the relevance of these questions to *their own marking contexts*.
 - 2. Group activity: Workshop participants were then asked to work in groups of about four to respond to part two of the checklist by indicating the relevance of these questions to their school marking contexts *in the opinion of the group*.

The structure of the checklist in appendix 2 is summarised below:

- Part one is a set of three questions about identifying the knowledge and skills, including CCEs, measured by a particular assessment item.
- Part two is a set of 32 questions about specific assessment practices that can be broadly grouped as: scrutinising the assessment item, the tools of assessment, the marking task/marking processes, and self-evaluation of marking practices. Teachers were asked to indicate the relevance of each question by ticking one of four boxes (this question is . . . not asked and not practicable/not asked but is practicable/is asked but is not practicable/is asked and is practicable). The value of this kind of structured response is that it allowed teachers participating in the trial workshop to make quick, balanced judgments about the extent to which an identifiable practice of assessment is meaningful to their own quite specific marking contexts.

The data

As noted above, the 'data' obtained in this study are by way of teacher advice and opinions about the usefulness of the checklist for teachers in schools. Accordingly, the data obtained at the workshop allow further discussion and speculation about specific features of the checklist in this report.

Responses for the group activity only were collected after the meeting. There were three groups of teachers at the meeting. Interestingly, although groups were asked to reach a consensus, in many cases this did not occur.

Figures 1 to 4 summarise responses to part two of the questionnaire, which addressed specific assessment practices; that is, one score indicates that one or more persons in one group ticked that response to that question. A score of two on the vertical axis indicates that one or more persons in two groups ticked that response to that question and so on.

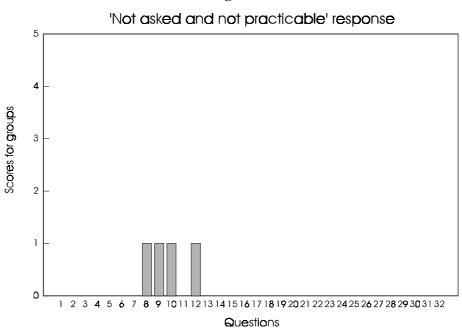


Figure 1

Figure 2

'Not asked but is practicable' response

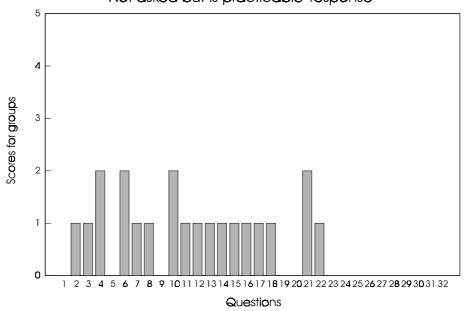
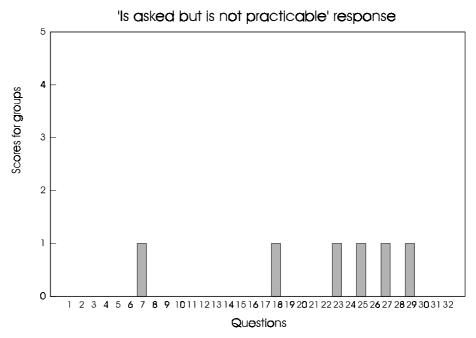


Figure 3



'Is asked and is practicable' response

5
4
2
1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1011121314151617181920212223242526272829303132

Questions

Figure 4
'Is asked and is practicable' response

This study does not offer any data about teaching practices at any school. It does offer some data about how a very small group of teachers responded to questions about the relevance of a questionnaire about assessment practices based on SRI Immersion notes. The value of the data is as a point of departure for discussion about the possible relevance of SRI Immersion notes and other aspects of Board procedures for marking operations. The data might also be helpful in considering the kind of research design that could be used in a study of assessment practices.

Figure 4 suggests that for every question on the checklist, there was at least one teacher in at least two groups who indicated the question is asked in teacher assessment contexts and is also practicable. This could suggest that the checklist had a reasonably high level of acceptability and perceived relevance for teachers at the meeting.

At the other extreme, figure 1 shows that at least one teacher in one group indicated that questions 8, 9, 10 and 12 were 'not asked and not practicable'. One hypothesis might be that these questions are not so much irrelevant but rather questions that have a subject-specific relevance. For example, question 8 requires teachers to consider whether the assessment item is 'a *completely closed* assessment item involving only one possible response and only one way of expressing it'. An English teacher might argue that this question is irrelevant because of the necessarily open nature of assessment items. Similarly for question 10, a mathematics teacher might argue that 'an *open* assessment item involving different kinds of responses and different ways of expressing responses' is not relevant. These speculations suggest that issues of subject specificity in assessment should be of particular interest in a larger study of assessment practices.

Figure 2 shows another pattern of responding — questions on the checklist that evoked the response 'not asked but is practicable' with the implication that the question *should be asked*. This figure suggests that at least some teachers participating in the study felt that particular questions about their knowledge of the assessment item, the tools of assessment, and the marking task are the kinds of questions that they should be asking. However, there is a marked

absence of this kind of response to questions relating to self-evaluation of marking practices—the exceptions are question 21 'Do my marking decisions involve a clear interpretation of the terms used in the criteria for each student result?' and question 22 'Have I scrutinised my reading of the criteria for each student result to identify and resolve any possible ambiguities in my interpretation and use of this criteria?'. In short, when we consider assessment practices that these teachers felt they could be following to a greater extent than might be the case, questions about the interpretation of criteria are of particular interest, rather than other questions to do with self-evaluation of marking practices.

Figure 3 gives a visual impression of yet another pattern of responding to the checklist — questions that teachers felt are asked but probably should not be because, for various reasons, they are impracticable. This figure suggests that more of the questions in the checklist under the category of self-evaluation of marking practices evoked this response. There are many reasons teachers may have responded in this way to these particular questions. We could speculate that:

- question 23 'For any student responses that may attract marginal decisions between grades, have I scrutinised the criteria to see if it offers useful indications about how to resolve these instances?' may be something some teachers feel they do, although, at the same time, perhaps they feel that the in-practice scrutinising of criteria does not always offer a way of resolving questions about marginal grades, or that it is not feasible to perform this scrutiny for every assessment item.
- question 25 'Do my marking practices allow me to consider, where appropriate, the full range of different but equally correct answers students may arrive at?' may be something some teachers feel they attempt to do, but at the same time, consider impracticable in *every* assessment context. The consideration of *the full range* of different but equally correct answers is a very labour-intensive task, and decisions about what represents different but *equally correct* answers are difficult and demanding decisions.

Conclusions

The study indicates support for the idea that some aspects of Board procedures for marking operations offer a useful point of departure for developing teacher resources. That is, SRI Immersion notes do offer a basis for developing in-service materials for staff, and for developing a research instrument for collecting teacher perceptions of the relevance and prevalence of particular marking practices. Teachers responded positively to the task of completing the checklist, and their responses indicated they did not generally feel the questions were framed in an obscure manner or a manner that was far removed from their own immediate concerns and marking contexts. The checklist appeared to prompt a great deal of highly relevant discussion about assessment practices, indicating its usefulness to schools.

However, the study also indicated that the SRI Immersion notes do not have an obvious and immediate utility for schools. As appendices 1 and 2 suggest, several stages of analysis of the SRI notes are required to produce materials that are useful in school assessment contexts, given the quite specific priorities and protocols of Board marking operations. Interestingly, the principles induced by scrutiny of the SRI Immersion notes for Units 2 and 7 are very similar ones — the observation that the checklist would not change radically with the inclusion of analysis of the 1994 SRI Immersion notes for other units is probably correct.

The value of a research study of assessment practices in Queensland schools is indicated by the following points:

- There has not been a comprehensive Queensland study of assessment practices of this kind, which has as its backdrop the issues of comparability sketched in the Viviani Report. There is a need for such a study using a non-intrusive research design that can be quickly and easily completed by a large number of teachers.
- As a resource for such a study, the Board currently has materials from its marking operations for example, the 1994 SRI Immersion notes offering a point of departure for developing very specific and relevant questions about teacher assessment practices that are both rigorous and valid. However, the checklist used in this study would need to be further developed, trialled and refined before it could be used as a research instrument.
- Teachers' responses in this study indicated that the act of completing the checklist was a
 useful form of professional development and self-evaluation of their own assessment
 practices, i.e. a research project that promoted teacher participation in discussion of marking
 practices would represent a useful strategy in highlighting assessment issues in Queensland.

Accordingly, a research project developing the work begun here should make a useful contribution to assessment practices in Queensland.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Application of SRI Immersion notes to the task of developing a marking scheme — a checklist of questions

Preliminary questions

- Do I have a thorough knowledge of the stimulus material that I can use to approach the task of setting up a marking scheme that will specify a range of possible student responses?
- Have I identified the relevant CCEs or the performance domain to be assessed?
- Have I thought through the requirements of the item, that is, how this item tests the CCEs or performance domain?
- Have I established if there are one or more parts of the assessment item testing different CCEs and requiring different student responses and separate assessment decisions?

Identifying the relevant parts of the marking scheme to be developed

- Have I identified the relevant parts of a marking scheme that need to be developed
 - a list of the relevant CCEs to be assessed (performance domain)?
 - a list of the desirable features of a student response (that is, how achievement in CCEs is demonstrated in responses to this assessment item)?
 - an exemplar (that is, an example of an 'A' student response that is both accurate and complete)?
 - a set of notes qualifying or clarifying the marking scheme? and
 - a marking grid for each part of an assessment item (requiring different student responses and separate assessment decisions) that provides descriptors of appropriate student responses for each possible grade?

Developing the marking grid

Preliminary questions

- Have I given preliminary consideration to the fact that, depending on the CCEs to be evaluated, some marking schemes (such as those for language responses) may be more 'open' and require more scope for marker interpretation while others may not?
- Have I established about where the marking scheme will be on a continuum from *completely closed* to *somewhat closed* to *open*, that is,
 - a *completely closed* marking scheme that will specify only one possible response and only one way of expressing it?

or

a *somewhat closed* marking scheme that will specify one response and different ways of expressing it?

or

an *open* marking scheme that does not specify responses or ways of expressing responses?

Writing descriptors for student results

- Have I identified, where appropriate, the range of *different student responses* that would be awarded the same result?
- Have I identified, where appropriate, the *different forms of expression* student responses might take for each grade?
- Have I identified, where appropriate, the different ways in which students give partial answers and various combinations of these in the appropriate descriptors on the marking grid?
- Have I identified the kinds and range of errors in student responses that are likely to occur (for example, omission, addition and/or ambiguity) in order to clearly establish what an 'A' response with no errors is as well as the grades of responses with various errors?
- Have I identified what is immaterial to the award of a grade?
- Have I provided sufficient detail so students will not be inappropriately penalised?
- Have I provided sufficient detail so students will be appropriately penalised?

Refining and evaluating the marking scheme

- Does the marking grid with grades and descriptors correspond to real differences in performance that are readily discernible in student work?
- Does the marking scheme allow me to make sound on-balance judgments about point-atable features of different student responses?
- Have I developed a clear interpretation of the terms used in the descriptor for each student result?
- Have I scrutinised the marking grid to identify and resolve any possible ambiguities in interpreting and using it?
- Have I identified any student responses that may attract marginal decisions between grades and scrutinised the marking grid to see if it offers useful indications about how to resolve these instances?
- Have I established what student responses not covered by the marking scheme are likely?
- Have I considered, where appropriate, that there are different but equally correct ways in which students may arrive at an answer?
- Does the marking grid include reference to an 'N' response or a blank or intelligible response that does not satisfy any of the descriptors?
- Have I provided notes qualifying or clarifying the descriptors in the marking scheme in order to provide further information, if necessary, about the variation in the way in which students communicate information?
- Have I 'road-tested' the marking scheme by consulting with other teachers to determine if
 the marking scheme is reliable, that is, different teachers marking the same student work
 will award the same result?

Using the marking scheme

- Have I identified and set aside any issues such as
 - personal expectations of individual students
 - preconceived notions of the distribution of grades
 - issues that are not relevant to the validity of the assessment item (for example, untidy printing or printing in the wrong place)

in order that I may focus upon applying the marking scheme?

Appendix 2: Agenda and materials for an assessment workshop

Assessment practices: some questions about the marking process and CCEs

9.00 Introduction and overview by workshop facilitators

Workshop structure

Part 1: Identifying performance domains (including CCEs)

Purpose: To identify knowledge and skills, including CCEs, measured by given

assessment items with a view to also understanding the design of

assessment instruments

Activity: Teachers will be asked to use the checklist in part one in an exercise

which requires them to examine one of their own classroom assessment

items and develop lists of knowledge and skills as well as CCEs

measured by this assessment item.

Part 2: Assessment practices

Purpose: To reflect upon marking processes and provide feedback about the

practicality of the checklist in part two

Activity: 1. Individual activity: teachers will be asked to read and respond to part two of the checklist, by indicating the relevance of these questions to *their own marking contexts*.

questions to men own maning comems

2. Group activity: workshop participants will then be asked to work in groups of about four to respond to part two of the checklist by indicating the relevance of these questions to their school marking contexts *in the opinion of the group*.

Debriefing by facilitators

12.00 Close

A checklist of some questions about assessment practices

The nature and status of this checklist

The following checklist of questions is not all-inclusive and does not represent a comprehensive, or in all cases relevant, 'guide' to 'good' assessment practices.

Assessment situations vary greatly across different subjects and accordingly not all of the questions below are relevant to every assessment situation or every subject. The checklist of questions that follows does represent a list of some provisional questions that have some basis in the 1994 SRI Immersion notes for Units 2 and 7 only. Accordingly, this list might be useful to teachers as one possible source of some questions about assessment practices. The task of developing good assessment practices will necessarily involve considering many other kinds of information and questions.

It is not expected that the answer to each of the questions in this checklist will be, or should be, 'yes' in every case. Yet if we think of the process of rigorously thinking about and critically evaluating assessment practices as useful, then the act of asking these and other questions (regardless of the answer) could be considered valuable in itself.

'Good' assessment practices are not synonymous with equity in assessment, although it is true that you cannot have one without the other. This checklist offers some provisional questions aimed at achieving 'good' assessment practices as they relate to the marking process. Part one of the checklist refers to the design of assessment instruments, because consideration of this is integral to both equity in assessment and good assessment practices.

Part one: Identifying performance domains (including CCEs)

Part one of the workshop is about identifying knowledge and skills, including CCEs, measured by assessment items with a view to also understanding the design of assessment instruments.

You are asked to use the checklist in part one in an exercise that requires you to examine one of your own classroom assessment items and develop lists of knowledge and skills as well as CCEs measured by this assessment item.

ge and skills that are releva?	nt as well as knowledge and skills that may not be
	one by listing only those knowledges and skills that subject specific or not?
	two, by listing all the CCEs that can be matched with lin step two?
1	e relevant whether they are

Part 2: Assessment practice

The purpose of your participation in Part two of the workshop is to reflect upon marking processes and provide feedback about the relevance of the checklist in part two.

This part of the workshop will involve one task, which you will first complete as an individual and then as a group of about four.

- 1. Individual activity: you will be asked to read and respond to part two of the checklist by indicating the relevance of these questions to your own marking contexts.
- 2. Group activity: you will then be asked to work in groups of about four to respond to part two of the checklist by indicating the relevance of these questions to your school marking contexts in the opinion of the group.

1.	Do I have a thorough knowledge of the stimulus material?
	not asked and not practicable. I is asked but is not r

The assessment item

not asked but is practicable

	not asked and not practicable not asked but is practicable	is asked but is not practicable is asked and is practicable	
2.	Have I established if there are one of performance domains and requiring decisions?	•	C
	not asked and not practicable	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable	is asked and is practicable	
3.	Have I advised students beforehand	what this assessment item measur	res?
	not asked and not practicable	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable \Box	is asked and is practicable	
Th	ne tools of assessment		
4.	Have I developed: – a list of the relevant performance	domains (including CCEs)?	
	not asked and not practicable	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable \Box	is asked and is practicable	
5.	 a description of the desirable feat the performance domains is demo 	ures of a student response (showir onstrated in responses to this asses	•
	not asked and not practicable	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable \Box	is asked and is practicable	
6.	an exemplar (that is, an example complete)?	of an 'A' student response that is b	ooth accurate and
	not asked and not practicable \Box	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable	is asked and is practicable	

is asked and is practicable

7.	 for each part of an assessment ite assessment decisions) an understa possible grade? 	m (requiring different student responding of the appropriate student re	-
	not asked and not practicable \Box	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable \Box	is asked and is practicable	
Th	e marking task		
Pre	eliminary questions		
8.	Have I established about where the completely closed to somewhat clos		inuum from
	 a completely closed assessment it way of expressing it? 	em involving only one possible res	ponse and only one
	not asked and not practicable \Box	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable \Box	is asked and is practicable	
	or		
9.	a somewhat closed assessment ite expressing it?	em involving one response and diffe	erent ways of
	not asked and not practicable \Box	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable \Box	is asked and is practicable	
	or		
10.	an <i>open</i> assessment item involving expressing responses?	ng different kinds of responses and	different ways of
	not asked and not practicable \Box	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable \Box	is asked and is practicable	
Th	e marking process		
11.	Have I considered, where appropria be awarded the same result?	te, the range of different student res	sponses that could
	not asked and not practicable \Box	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable \Box	is asked and is practicable	
12.	Have I considered, where appropria might take for each grade?	te, the different forms of expression	student responses
	not asked and not practicable \Box	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable \Box	is asked and is practicable	

13.	Have I considered, where approanswers and various combination	-	, the different ways in which stud these?	ents give partial
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
	F		F	_
14.		_	e of errors in student responses th	·
			or ambiguity) in order to clearly enter the grades of responses with various	
		en as u		us errors?
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	H
	not asked but is practicable	Ц	is asked and is practicable	
15.	Have I considered what is imma	aterial	to the award of a grade?	_
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
16.	the award of a particular grade lower grade?		tinction between features that mu- atures that, if present, will lead to	•
	not asked and not practicable	ᆜ	is asked but is not practicable	브
	not asked but is practicable	Ц	is asked and is practicable	Ц
17.	Have I sufficiently considered t	he abo	ove so students will not be inappro	opriately penalised?
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
18	Have I sufficiently considered t	he aho	ove so students will be appropriate	ely nenalised?
10.	•		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked and not practicable	\exists	•	H
	not asked but is practicable	ш	is asked and is practicable	ш
	aluating my marking Do my decisions about the awa that are readily discernible in st	rd of g	rades correspond to real difference	ces in performance
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
20.	Do my marking decisions invol of student responses?	ve sou	nd on-balance judgments about p	oint-at-able features
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
	•		•	

21.	Do my marking decisions involveach student result?	e a cl	ear interpretation of the terms use	ed in the criteria for
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
22.	Have I scrutinised my reading of	the c	riteria for each student result to i	dentify and resolve
	any possible ambiguities in my in	nterpi	retation and use of this criteria?	
	not asked and not practicable	_	is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
23.	For any student responses that m scrutinised the criteria to see if it instances?	-	eract marginal decisions between great useful indications about how to	
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
24.	Are my readings of the criteria co	onsist	tent across the work of different s	tudents?
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
25.	Do my marking practices allow r but equally correct answers stude			full range of different
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
26.	Do my readings of the criteria all variation in the way in which study			ere necessary, the
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	
27.	Is my understanding of the markithis particular assessment item of	-		to clearly distinguish
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	Ц
28.	Do I discuss my marking practice appropriate in order to gain informarking practices?		th other teachers and consult with on that may be useful to self-evalu	
	not asked and not practicable		is asked but is not practicable	
	not asked but is practicable		is asked and is practicable	

29. Are my marking practices consiste	ent with those used by other teachers	so that it is likely
that student work I mark will be a	warded the same result by other teach	hers?
not asked and not practicable	is asked but is not practicable	
not asked but is practicable	is asked and is practicable	
30. Have I identified and set aside any	issues such as	
 my personal expectations of inc 	lividual students?	
not asked and not practicable	is asked but is not practicable	
not asked but is practicable	is asked and is practicable	
31. – any preconceived notions of the	e distribution of grades?	
not asked and not practicable	is asked but is not practicable	
not asked but is practicable	is asked and is practicable	
32. – issues that are not relevant to the writing or writing in the wrong	•	r example, untidy
not asked and not practicable	is asked but is not practicable	
not asked but is practicable	is asked and is practicable	ī
-	olying the assessment criteria to poin	t-at-able features of