Correction has been carried out in a fair and acceptable manner. There were instance though, that the moderator did not agree altogether with some of the marks awarded to candidates. These discrepancies were so small that made no effect on the final global mark. The final awarded mark is therefore that awarded by the marker.

Nevertheless there are other points that must be highlighted. There seem to be practices that could in future bear negative effects on the final awarded mark if these practices are not rectified.

1. Some candidates used Mechanical Desktop rather than plain AutoCAD. Although no specific rules were set as to which software to use, candidates should be made aware of the difference between the two applications, especially with versions 2010. MATSEC papers are specifically designed to be most efficiently worked out using plain (Vanilla) AutoCAD. A number of anonymous blocks and unused dimension styles and text styles where present in the files submitted.

2. 30% of the candidates had excessive time duration indicated in their files. Two files registered a duration time of over 4 hours! Did these candidates really follow instruction 1.2 and started “a new drawing using the default metric template acadiso.dwt”? It seems that AutoCAD software was already running when these candidates started their assignment. These candidates simply started working on the already initiated drawing space.

3. 36% of the candidates failed to follow instruction 1.4 which clearly stated that the default text style is to be used. These candidates modified the Standard text style to include the Arial font.

4. Two candidates made use of a pre-set school based template that had lineweight set to other than by layer.

5. Not withstanding the express instruction that printouts were not required, some candidates submitted hard copies of the assignment.

General comment:

It is essential that candidates be made aware that instructions in an exam paper are to be followed to the letter. The first assignments are meant to train them in this discipline.

Recommendations:

1. Where practical, all candidates sitting for the same assignment use the same software, preferably avoiding verticals.

2. Candidates should launch AutoCAD themselves at the beginning of the examination, and be able to modify the environment to suit their requirements.

3. Candidates are made aware that it is in their interest to spend the first 10 minutes reading the whole paper and then work it through, line by line, marking each line when that instruction is completed.