



NQ Verification 2014–15

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Art and Design
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting
Date published:	September 2015

National Courses/Units verified:

H204 Art and Design: Added Value Unit (National 4)

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Almost all centres demonstrated a clear understanding of the purpose and requirements of the Added Value Unit. In many cases, those centres delivering this Unit for the second time encouraged candidates to produce highly detailed development work which exceeded requirements. The main reason for this is that often National 4 and National 5 candidates are being taught together and working in a similar way. There is no issue with candidates exceeding minimum requirements; however, it is important to remember that for National 4, candidates are required to show *planning* for Assessment Standards 1.2 and 2.2. This can be a simple written description of their intentions for the final piece, an annotated simple sketch(s), or a combination of these.

Outcome 1 and Outcome 2

Expressive final artwork demonstrated a wide range of themes and choices of media. In the majority of cases, candidates were easily exceeding the minimum standard for National 4. Clearly they had built on the experience gained within the National 4 Expressive Unit. It was noted that in a number of centres the quantity of evidence produced was exceeding minimum requirements at National 4.

Design final pieces also demonstrated a wide range of themes. Similar comments apply with regard to exceeding the minimum standard for National 4. Clearly they had built on the experience gained within the National 4 Design Unit.

The main reason for this was that centres considered some candidates to have the ability to produce artwork that would meet the standard for National 5 but that they were not likely to be able to pass the question paper element. In a number of such cases, candidates were achieving passes in one or both Units at National 5 but were being presented for the National 4 Added Value Unit in order to gain a National 4 Course award.

Assessment judgements

Almost all centres were correctly entering candidates at the appropriate level.

There were very effective approaches to assessment where centres were working with others in their authority to sample and cross-mark evidence. This is proving to be helpful in maintaining and applying national standards. This was most successful when procedures were clearly structured and integrated into planning.

Systems of internal verification have been developed by centres and are increasingly being seen as integral to the effective delivery of the Added Value Unit. There was further evidence of dual assessment, cross-marking and sampling within centres.

Centres continued to use Individual Record of Work Booklets/sheets for candidates with a simple checklist indicating when each Assessment Standard is achieved.

Outcome 1 and Outcome 2

In most cases, judgements were accurate for both Expressive and Design Outcomes. Almost all centres had a strong understanding of standards at the various levels. Effective internal verification has helped here with centres more confident in their understanding of National 4.

03

Section 3: General comments

For Round 2 visiting verification, only the evidence for the National 4 Added Value Unit is formally verified. The sample size is a maximum of 12 candidates at this level. Where centres are presenting fewer than 12 candidates the sample size can be made up to 12 with work from other Expressive and Design Units. This is intended only to be supportive and advisory — it does not influence the formal verification outcome.

As with Round 1 Verification, all assessment judgements must be accompanied by the relevant evidence to support those judgements. Without this the verifier cannot decide on the accuracy of the centres assessment of candidates. Verifiers do not look at the previous Expressive Unit and Design Unit evidence or their records of assessment.

Most candidates were well-prepared for the Added Value Unit assessment and were able to meet the Assessment Standards required. The range of themes for

the Expressive Outcome was similar to those used at other levels. The most common themes were Portraiture and Still-Life. These often demonstrated individuality in content and a number of centres commented that candidates were more engaged with their work as a result of personalisation and choice. In the Design Outcome the most common themes were Poster, Fashion and Product Design.

Almost all centres consider the verification visits to be helpful and supportive. A strength of visiting verification is that aspects of the delivery of Units and assessment can be discussed and clarified.