



NQ Verification 2014–15

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

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| Verification group name: | Care |
| Verification event/visiting information: | Event |
| Date published: | March 2015 |

National Units verified:

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|---------|------------|-------------------------------|
| H218 75 | National 5 | Human Development & Behaviour |
| H218 76 | Higher | Human Development & Behaviour |
| H12A 74 | National 4 | Social Influences |
| H12A 75 | National 5 | Social Influences |
| H21C 74 | National 4 | Values and Principles |
| H21C 75 | National 5 | Values and Principles |
| H21C 76 | Higher | Values and Principles |

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

This report has been produced following the first round of verification activity and involved a number of centres. There is a wide variation in evidence submitted, reflecting the different approaches that centres take to assess their candidates. It is hoped that this report will help to inform and improve centres' approaches to assessing their candidates and the quality assurance process.

Assessment approaches

Some centres' assessment tasks are clearly laid out and give candidates an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. The opportunity for candidates to submit evidence in a range of options which reflects the candidate's interests, rather than being directed to produce a report, allows for personalisation and choice. This should be encouraged for good practice.

Some centres have adapted the Unit assessment support pack appropriately and provided candidates with clear and concise requirements and excellent assessment choices. Clear assessment guidance is important for candidates.

However, some centres have been too directive in their assessment instructions, removing candidate choice. Also, there were sometimes inconsistencies in these instructions which candidates can find confusing.

Centres who have had assessments prior verified have not always implemented the recommendations made. This may be as a result of a time constraints, but any recommendations made to a centre during prior verification should be implemented.

The Assessment Standards were not always clearly identifiable within the instruments of assessment. If these were clarified, it would help candidates to monitor their progress and enable Assessors to judge when candidates have met the Assessment Standards.

Some centres provided suggested answers for the Assessor; this should support the reliability of the assessment between Assessors and over time.

In summary, centres can adapt the Unit assessment support packs and should provide clear and accurate information for their candidates. The assessment should cover all the Assessment Standards and provide the candidate with personalisation and choice. Information on judging evidence or exemplar answers are useful tools for ensuring reliability and validity in approach.

Assessment judgements

Some centres provided documentation to show that candidates have been given clear, constructive and positive comments. There were excellent examples of feedback being given on an 'Assessment comment sheet' and evidence of candidates being supported by verbal discussion.

Centres have not always ensured that assessment judgements are in line with national standards, with some candidates' work not meeting the standard. Conversely, some candidates were being asked to do too much and to remediate on work that has already met the Assessment Standards.

Where centres have used a pass mark on an assessment, they need to ensure that the candidate still has the opportunity to meet all the Assessment Standards.

It is appropriate for candidates to work in groups, but it is important that the centre provides evidence that each candidate has met the Assessment Standards.

In summary, centres should ensure that their assessment decisions are accurate and cover all the Assessment Standards. Feedback sheets which include Assessor and Internal Verifier comments enable the candidate to gain feedback and monitor their progress.

Section 3: General comments

Internal verification

It is good practice to demonstrate that the internal verification process was thorough. A small number of centres made effective use of well-designed feedback forms that identified action points for the Assessor. Others provided good evidence of thorough internal verification processes, with Internal Verifiers reading all candidates' submissions and provided comprehensive feedback and action points for the Assessors.

Not all centres provided evidence of internal verification. Centre staff are reminded that all centres offering SQA qualifications must have an effective internal quality assurance system in place which ensures that all candidates are assessed accurately, fairly and consistently to national standards. A possible approach to verification is the SQA Verification Toolkit: www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit.

Good practice

Assessment cover/summary/feedback sheets provide good, relevant information that assists the tracking of assessment decisions and internal verification processes. These can also contain a statement signed by the candidate that confirms that it is all their own work.

It is important for candidates to have a choice about how they provide evidence. Personalisation and choice can be enabled by candidates selecting or devising their own case study.

Some Assessors used a systematic approach to identify and comment on each Assessment Standard using detailed forms. Feedback to the candidates was constructive, clearly identifying strengths and development points for candidates who had achieved the Assessment Standard.

A small number of centres' included an 'Evidence checklist' which enabled the candidates to clearly see what is required to meet the Assessment Standards, enabling the internal and external verification process to monitor quality standards. Some centres devised a mapping grid for a portfolio approach. This is a useful tool for both candidate and Assessor to monitor progress.

It is good practice to provide information on judging evidence and/or exemplars to support the reliability of the assessment between Assessors and over time. Another point of good practice is to annotate candidates' work where they meet the Assessment Standards which facilitates the internal and external verification process.