

NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Care
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

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

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

This report has been produced following the first round of verification activity in 2016. It is hoped that it will help to inform and improve centres' approaches to assessing their candidates and the quality assurance process.

Assessment approaches

Some centres have adapted the Unit assessment support packages 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. One centre attempted to direct the candidate by using a step-by step approach but this appeared confusing to follow.

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

One centre used different packages to assess a Unit which may make it more difficult to maintain reliability.

Another centre included assessment judgement information from the UASP in the candidate instructions. These are additional notes for assessors and should not be included in candidate information.

In summary, centres should adapt the Unit assessment support packages and 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. When submitting materials for external verification it would help if case studies, instructions for candidates and information on how the assessment has been administered are included.

Assessment judgements

Some centres provide documentation to show candidates have been given clear, constructive and positive comments. Extensive assessor feedback was available on an assessment comment sheet and it was clear if remediation had been required and what was required of the candidates. However, it would be helpful if centres could clarify where remediation has taken place.

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

In summary, centres should ensure 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.

03 Section 3: General comments

Internal verification

Most centres are now providing good evidence of thorough internal verification processes.

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 the work is all their own.

Many centres are encouraging their candidates to provide sources of information and this is regarded as good practice.

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

Evidence from one centre included an evidence checklist which enables the candidate to clearly see what is required to meet the Assessment Standards and also enables the internal and external verification process to monitor quality standards.

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. Also, if candidates are encouraged to clearly identify the sociological concepts and social influences they have used by underlining or using a bold font, this facilitates marking and the internal and external verification process.