



# NQ Verification 2013–14

## Key Messages Round 1

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### Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Computing Science
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	January 2014

#### National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

H21X 73: National 3 Building Digital Solutions

H222 73: National 3 Information Solutions

H223 74: National 4 Software Design and Development

H226 74: National 4 Information System Design and Development

H223 75: National 5 Software Design and Development

H226 75: National 5 Information System Design and Development

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### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

Some centres created interesting and innovative approaches to assessment.

Where centres have devised their own assessments, it is advised that they are prior verified by SQA before being used. This is a free service and will help ensure that the approach to assessment is in line with national standards and covers all Assessment Standards.

Prelim-type exams are not usually acceptable as forms of assessment that meet all of the Assessment Standards of the Units. The *Unit Assessment Support* packs are a good reference point for approaches to assessment, although there are other valid approaches.

Although a group approach to an assessment task is possible, each piece of assessed candidate evidence must be clearly attributed to one candidate to show that the candidate has met the Assessment Standard.

Within *Software Design and Development* (National 4 and National 5) it is important to remember that programming languages such as Scratch are software development environments and **not** contemporary software-based applications.

## Assessment judgements

Some centres provided excellent assessment judgement tables which showed which answers were acceptable. These were usually accompanied by Assessment Standard checklists for each candidate.

Some centres either marked the question or the answer with the Assessment Standard. This made it easy for the Verifier and Internal Verifier to check that all the Assessment Standards had been met.

Some centres gave excellent commentary on why they had accepted particular answers. This was an example of good practice.

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## Section 3: General comments

Internal verification is an extremely useful method of ensuring that Assessment Standards have not been accidentally omitted from the assessment and that the assessment judgements are valid.

The centres which provided:

- ◆ candidate evidence flyleaves
- ◆ the assessment with the Assessment Standards highlighted
- ◆ the assessment judgements tables
- ◆ assessor commentary

made it very easy for the evidence to be verified.

The document entitled *Evidence required for external verification of Units* available at

[www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/Evidence\\_required\\_for\\_verificationevents.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf) is a valuable resource that should be viewed by all assessors.

Finally, if a centre uses an assessment of its own devising, we strongly recommend that they submit this for prior verification — this will ensure that the instrument of assessment used is a valid approach to assessment. The prior verification service is free of charge and full details (along with appropriate forms for submission) can be found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/63004.html>.