



NQ Verification 2014–15 Key Messages Round 2

01 Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Computing Science
Verification event/visiting information	National 4 — Event National 5 and Higher — Visiting
Date published:	June 2015

National Courses/Units verified:

H227 74 Computing Science Assignment (National 4) Added Value Unit
C716 75 Computing Science Assignment (National 5) IACCA
C716 76 Computing Science Assignment (Higher) IACCA

02 Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

All centres had used an SQA-produced assignment.

Some centres had created electronic pro formas for candidates to use. This is acceptable as long as the electronic versions are identical to the paper versions.

Assessment judgements

All the assessments that had been verified this year were found to be within the tolerance of the national standards.

National 4

Centres should be careful not to demand more than is required from the candidates in these assignments. It is appreciated that some candidates have perhaps started on the National 5 assignment and then been moved to the equivalent National 4 assignment, but centres should ensure that the candidates' work has only been evaluated against the appropriate standards.

In the Language Tutors assignment the program testing should be undertaken with the data produced by the database. There is no requirement for candidates to test the program with normal, extreme or exceptional data.

In the Games Review assignment it is enough for the assessor to say that they have observed the links working.

It should be remembered that the report should reflect the task as a whole, so the suggestions on how it could be improved should relate to both the information system and program parts of the task.

National 5

Stage 1 Analysis

The written analysis should not simply comprise of a direct copy of the task supplied but should be in the candidate's own words.

Stage 2(b)(i) Building a solution (program): design and development

Many candidates did not create a design of the user interface. An annotated sketch is more than adequate. Where the interface is mainly text based then the screen prompts and layout should be indicated.

Stage 2(b)(ii) Building a solution (program): testing and refinement

The tests conducted and samples outputted should match the data listed in the test table.

Test tables would benefit if each test run were numbered to match the corresponding output.

Stage 3 Reporting on the solution

The legal or security implication, which should be clearly identified, should be in context rather than generic.

Higher

There was some misunderstanding by some assessors as to what was required in the marking scheme for candidates to have complete evidence. This will be addressed by changes made to the marking scheme for next year.

03

Section 3: General comments

It was good to see that the vast majority of centres had used the marking scheme supplied with the assignments and had not created their own micro-marking schemes.

Assessors should feel free to add comments on candidates' completed assignments to explain how they arrived at their decisions on the banding. This

not only helps the assessor come to their decision but is helpful to both the internal and external verifier.

The comments made by the assessors regarding the reasoning for their marks was invaluable to the verification process.

The majority of centres have a good internal verification process in place. Guidance on internal verification can be obtained from www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit.