



NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

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

National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

H234 75 Economics of the Market (National 5)

H236 75 UK Economic Activity (National 5)

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

If centres are using Unit assessment support packs, they should ensure that they are using the most up-to-date ones. No changes should be made to the Outcomes, Assessment Standards or 'Judging the evidence' sections in an assessment pack as these are common across all packs. Additions to marking can be added in the 'Commentary on assessment judgement' column.

Centres should also make clear reference to the Unit and title of the assessment support pack being used. It is also advisable to enclose a copy of the Unit assessment and 'Judging the evidence' section being used. This is essential if the centre has adapted the assessment, or is using its own assessment.

If centres submit naturally occurring evidence, or are developing their own assessment instruments, it is recommended that the centre familiarise itself with the 'Judging the evidence' information in the Unit assessment support packs (available on SQA's secure site). This will help to ensure that the tasks given to candidates are valid and reliable and allow them to meet the minimum competences required.

Unit assessment checklists should be used to show each individual candidate's pass or fail results for the exact Outcomes provided for verification. Similarly, the checklist should be provided for the whole sample being verified.

Copies of the Unit assessment and 'Judging the evidence' should also be provided.

Assessment judgements

Candidate responses were clearly marked, making it easy to decide where marks were awarded or where a pass was gained.

If any oral re-assessment is given, this should be clearly indicated on a separate sheet with a short commentary regarding the re-assessment. This should be signed and dated by the assessor and the candidate.

Evidence of internal verification must be provided, as should a detailed description of how this has been carried out by the centre. Cross-marking should be clearly indicated in a different colour to the original marking. Any deviations identified should be discussed and action taken where required. It is recommended that one third of the sample is internally verified. There is clear guidance regarding internal verification on SQA's website.

Candidates can, and often do, give more than the minimum required response when answering a question. Centres should make candidates aware of the requirements of the command words used in questions.

Some weak responses had been accepted and centres are reminded to refer to the 'Judging the evidence' section of the Unit assessment support pack for guidance.

Where the Assessment Standard asks for specific information, it must be clearly given in the candidate response. This is especially pertinent when candidates are asked to draw and label diagrams.

03

Section 3: General comments

There were examples of good practice including appropriate feedback to candidates. Centres provided very good evidence of thorough internal verification procedures. Centres were applying the standards to the assessments and had a commendable knowledge of the assessment procedures. Evidence from centres was well organised and presented. Most candidates showed good application of theory in their answers and demonstrated that they were capable of achieving more than the minimum competences.

Centres should use their professional judgement when interpreting command words; however, it should be noted that one word is sometimes not enough when candidates are asked to 'identify' or 'describe'.