



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

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

National Courses/Units verified:

H234 76 Higher Economics: Economics of the Market
H7XX 77 Advanced Higher Economic Markets: Structures and Intervention

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The assessment approaches used by all centres at Higher and Advanced Higher were deemed valid. All centres used SQA Unit assessment support packs or SQA Unit assessment support packs that had been slightly adapted. The Unit by Unit approach was the preferred option.

Assessment judgements

Verifiers found that most of the evidence submitted was of a high standard, with centres having a clear understanding of the national standard. Having considered the evidence submitted in this round, it was evident that:

At Advanced Higher, centres were fully aware of the requirements of the level and made full use of the judging evidence tables to decide whether a candidate had achieved/not achieved the accepted standard. This was reflected in the quality of candidate responses that were accepted and centres should be commended for their rigour in marking these responses.

At Higher, although most of the evidence submitted achieved the required standard, it was evident that some centres were not fully aware of the complexity of responses required to meet the national standard. This was reflected by some of the responses that were accepted by centre assessors. For example, in Higher

Economics of the Market, Outcome 1, Assessment Standard 1.1 — candidates would be required to give an indication of relative scarcity to fully achieve the Assessment Standard. It is insufficient just to mention limited resources and unlimited wants and centres should be aware that if candidates make no reference to relative scarcity they will not have met the national standard for this Assessment Standard.

Similarly, expectations should be raised regarding candidate responses for Higher Economics of the Market Outcome 1, Assessment Standard 1.2. A clear explanation should be given of opportunity cost, making reference to a production possibility diagram. In some instances candidate explanations were unclear and candidate responses did not match the diagrams that had been drawn.

Candidate evidence submitted for each Assessment Standard clearly indicated whether candidates passed or failed. However, some candidate evidence was very leniently marked and centres are reminded to look at the judging evidence tables and marking instructions when marking candidate evidence to ensure that they are marking to the national standard.

03

Section 3: General comments

All centres that submitted evidence completed candidate assessment records effectively. In addition, all centres submitted the instrument of assessment, judging evidence tables and marking instructions with candidate evidence. For this they are to be commended.

It was noted that, although rigorous internal verification was undertaken by most centres that submitted evidence, this was not the case with all centres. A few centres presented candidate evidence that had been cross-marked in a different colour but with no evidence of internal verification. Centres are reminded that they must have an effective internal verification policy in place.

SQA has produced an Internal Verification Toolkit which provides advice and support on designing and implementing the best model and approach to internal verification depending on your subject, centre and candidate needs. It can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit.

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