



NQ Verification 2014–15

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Engineering Science
Verification event/visiting information	Postal and Visiting Verification
Date published:	June 2015

National Courses/Units verified:

H23E 74 Engineering Science Assignment (National 4) Added Value Unit
C723 75 Engineering Science Assignment (National 5) IACCA
C723 76 Engineering Science Assignment (Higher) IACCA

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The use of SQA-produced assessments is mandatory both for the National 4 Added Value Unit and for the National 5/ Higher Course Assignment. With regards to this, all verified centres were found to have used appropriate approaches to assessment.

Assessment judgements

Of the centres verified, a significant number demonstrated an understanding of national standards. However, a number of centres required additional support and required to amend mark allocations to bring them in line with national standards.

Centres verified for the National 4 Added Value Unit were found to have an understanding of the evidence requirements for this assessment instrument. Please note that no marks are allocated at this level — judgements are made on whether candidates have provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate the meeting of a range of Assessment Standards (as per the judging evidence table). All Assessment Standards require to be met before a candidate is judged to have passed the Added Value Unit. Note that, as the Added Value Unit is a Unit qualification, a **limited** amount of observational evidence is acceptable. In such

cases, it is crucial that a written and signed teacher statement is provided, stating that the teacher has witnessed the passing of the Assessment Standard.

In the Course Assignment for National 5 and Higher, no observational evidence is permitted and marks can only be awarded where clear evidence is present. The advent of visiting verification this year permitted the acceptance of video evidence of working models and simulations, where centres chose to provide this. This was not possible last session during event verification.

Centres must remember to use the band descriptors when assessing candidate work. A decision must first be made, **on the evidence present**, of which band the evidence best fits into, followed by a decision on what mark within the band to award.

Assessment must be based on whether the work truly demonstrates application of knowledge at a minimum of the assessed level. For example, at National 5, closed-loop control would be expected within the Analysis section. At Higher, either two-state or proportional closed-loop control in the form of a control diagram would be expected. The same can be said for other areas of the assignment — to attain a high mark in the record of progress, sufficient depth must be supplied to demonstrate the application of skills at that level.

Centres should provide justification of why a mark was awarded, signposting where to find the evidence and giving clear detail on the amount of teacher support given.

03

Section 3: General comments

Sixteen centres were verified during Round 2. Of these, two centres were verified for the National 4 Added Value Unit (postal verification), eleven centres were verified for the National 5 Course Assignment (visiting verification) and three centres were verified for the Higher Course Assignment (visiting verification).

Please note that, as the levels progress from National 4 through to Higher, less support should be provided by the teacher. In National 4, titled worksheets are provided to support the report structure. In National 5, this must not be the case — there is scope for candidates to structure the report and to provide an individualised solution. In Higher, a large amount of flexibility has been built in to the problems to ensure that a variety of solutions are possible and, as such, we would expect to see variety across a candidate sample. At all levels, these tasks should be completed on an open-book basis — meaning that candidates can investigate and use elements of technology from outwith the scope of the Course.

A range of materials is now available on the Understand Standards section of SQA's website and these will assist in making assessment judgements. In addition, further training will take place next year to support subject teachers in the assessment process.

It is crucial that centres demonstrate **effective** use of internal verification procedures. It is not enough to merely cross-mark the sample — centres should show what impact internal verification processes have had.