

# NQ Verification 2014–15

## Key Messages Round 2

01

### Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	English and Communication
Verification event/visiting information	Verification Event
Date published:	June 2015

### National Courses/Units verified:

H23Y 74 English Assignment (National 4) Added Value Unit

02

### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

The majority of centres were very confident in delivering this Unit and demonstrated a very pleasing mix of assessment approaches which illustrated candidate choice. The evaluation of texts chosen by candidates and the final pieces submitted demonstrated clear and focused assessment approaches which allowed candidates to achieve the Assessment Standards.

Some centres, however, were still unclear about the evidence candidates were required to provide. While the final assignment was provided by almost all centres, some centres were still not clear that candidates also had to provide an evaluation of two texts (Assessment Standard 1.1) and candidates' responses to questions (Assessment Standard 1.4). The requirement that one of the texts evaluated by candidates must be written was a further condition which some centres were not clear about.

Finally, guidance was also required in some instances where the approach taken by the centre had not allowed candidates to demonstrate 'personalisation and choice'. This was seldom seen, but there were occasions when centres had used taught texts or where a whole-class approach had been taken to the Added Value Unit.

## **Assessment judgements**

The majority of centres were clear about the Assessment Standards required to make assessment judgements and consistently made valid and reliable assessment judgements.

It was evident, however, that some centres had included additional assessment requirements for candidates. For example, in a small number of cases, centres had supplemented the Assessment Standards with the requirement that candidates must identify the purpose and audience of the texts. Similarly, in relation to language skills, some centres had taken a severe approach to assessing language skills, yet the requirement of the Unit is that candidates need to demonstrate knowledge of 'basic syntactic units'. Centres are reminded that while additional requirements may help to challenge and enhance candidates' learning these should not be used to make assessment judgements. Such additional requirements may create further barriers to candidates and prevent them from achieving the Unit.

03

## **Section 3: General comments**

There were still instances where internal verification had not taken place or where there was limited engagement with this process. While some centres had provided the internal verification policy statements there was no evidence of internal verification taking place. Centres are reminded that they should be engaging with the process of internal verification to ensure candidates are assessed accurately and consistently in line with the Assessment Standards.