



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

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

National Courses/Units verified:

National 3 to Advanced Higher

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Approaches taken by the centres displayed a great deal of confidence in both creating centre-devised assessment approaches and adapting SQA Unit assessment support packs in order to meet the needs of the learners. The assessments produced were creative, engaging and focused on the Assessment Standards.

Centres also demonstrated clear, well thought out and integrated assessment approaches which linked learning and teaching with internal assessment. This was also seen in relation to internal and external assessment approaches. This commendable method of combining assessment with learning and teaching allows assessment to occur as natural part of learning and teaching.

This was the first time Advanced Higher had been verified and centres exhibited a confident and secure grasp of the requirements at this level. Texts chosen were challenging and demonstrated personalisation and choice. Candidates genuinely seemed engaged by the texts chosen and the writing tasks and there was evidence of some exemplary work. There were a very small number of centres which did not allow candidates to compare texts or produce a research outline with a clear purpose, which is required for Analysis and Evaluation.

Assessment judgements

Centres were engaging fully with Assessment Standards and were making clear and accurate decisions. Centres were also demonstrating how assessment judgements had been made, which was evident through the use of the highlighting of candidates' work, checklists which related to Assessment Standards and the annotation of candidates' work. This was both helpful to candidates and revealed a secure understanding of the requirements of the Assessment Standards.

For Advanced Higher, centres had developed a number of methods to demonstrate candidates' critical reflection, required for Assessment Standard 1.3 of Creation and Production. This was evident through the use of such methods as: checklists with suggested features to be reflected upon; the use of Track Changes and electronically annotating texts to demonstrate comparisons.

There were still some minor occurrences of centres not exemplifying an understanding of audience and purpose with evidence, required in Analysis and Evaluation, Assessment Standard 1.1 and 2.1. A similarly small number of centres were assessing candidates without fully engaging with the Assessment Standards.

03

Section 3: General comments

Internal verification was taking place in almost all centres. Centres were presenting evidence of cross-marking with internal verifiers making comments and suggestions about candidate work, along with departmental meetings where standardisation exercises had been minuted.

Here are also a number of useful links which can be accessed by centres in order to support understanding of standards:

- ◆ [Understanding Standards nominee training \(agenda, presentation and workshop tasks\)](#)
- ◆ [Understanding Standards secure materials](#) (login required)
- ◆ [Prior-verified materials](#) (login required)
- ◆ [Unit assessment support pack materials](#) (login required)
- ◆ [Literacy secure materials](#) (login required)
- ◆ [Common Questions](#)
- ◆ [Audio presentations on Course elements \(National 3 to Advanced Higher\)](#)
- ◆ [July 2014 Key Messages Report](#)
- ◆ [Oct 2015 Key Messages Report](#)