



NQ Verification 2014–15

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Gaelic (Learners)
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2015

National Courses/Units verified:

H277 74 National 4 Gaelic (Learners): Understanding Language
H277 75 National 5 Gaelic (Learners): Understanding Language
H278 75 National 5 Gaelic (Learners): Using Language
H277 76 New Higher Gaelic (Learners): Understanding Language

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Good practice

Centres presented assessment materials either from the Unit assessment support packs on SQA's secure website or slightly altered versions of these.

Candidate performance was good across all levels, and all candidates appeared to be coping well with the challenge of their respective assessments.

In some cases, centres had re-formatted the reading tasks from the Understanding Language Units to make them more candidate-friendly, for example providing space for answers within a reading task.

Where alterations to the original text had been made, the majority of centres highlighted these changes within their adapted Unit assessment support pack.

Development points

If a centre provides a glossary within a reading task, they should ensure that none of the glossary items could inform candidates of any answers within the task.

In some cases, centres had made slight alterations to the text within the reading tasks, but had not fully amended the judging evidence table to reflect these changes. Centres should ensure that the judging evidence table corresponds with the assessment task.

In Outcome 3 of Understanding Language (Higher) Unit, some candidates provided little reference to the literary text studied. While direct quotations are not essential, candidates should be reminded to use sufficient evidence from the text to justify their response. Candidates should avoid only using quotes in their answers without evaluating their effectiveness or giving a personal response to them. Centres should remind candidates of the importance of using evidence from the text studied within their answer. This will allow candidates to successfully explain the effectiveness of the text and give a personal appreciation.

Assessment judgements

Good practice

Centres made reliable decisions across the assessment evidence that was submitted, and there were many examples of good practice.

Many centres submitted comprehensive evidence of internal verification, including details of their internal verification procedures and comments from both the assessor and internal verifier. This clearly demonstrated to the verification team how decisions had been reached and is to be commended.

There was also good practice regarding the clarity of decision-making processes, in terms of annotation of scripts and where Assessment Standards had been achieved. Some centres provided extracts from candidate answers to justify their assessment judgement.

Some centres provided extensive feedback to candidates, giving details of how they had overtaken outcomes and relevant development points. This provided candidates with clear and accessible comments on their performance and how this may be improved.

Development points

Some centres did not provide evidence of internal verification. Centres should refer to the [Internal Verification Toolkit](#) for support on this matter.

Assessment Standard 3.2 of the Understanding Language (Higher) Unit asks candidates to give a personal appreciation of the texts. Centres are reminded that candidates are not required to address this outcome in a separate paragraph within their answer, but can do so throughout their response, should they prefer to do so. Centres should take a holistic approach to the judgement of this Assessment Standard, by examining the full candidate answer and crediting personal appreciation throughout.

When judging Assessment Standard 3.2 of the Understanding Language (Higher) Unit, candidates are not required to give their personal appreciation of the text in the first person; they may prefer to use phrases such as 'the reader' rather than 'I'.

03

Section 3: General comments

Centres should take care when filling out the Verification Sample Form and the Candidate Flyleaf. The Verification Sample Form should be completed in ascending order of level (National 3 up to Higher) and then by alphabetical order of candidate. Centres are reminded that evidence should only be identified as 'Complete' if evidence for an entire Unit has been submitted.

There were many examples of excellent internal verification, which is to be commended.

Some centres had created effective cover sheets to set targets in concrete terms to both support and provide feedback to candidates. Some centres also encouraged candidates to give their own feedback on the assessment and to create their own targets.

Overall, most candidates were well-prepared for Unit assessment and were able to meet the Assessment Standards required.