



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 2

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Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Gaelic Learners
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

C731 75	National 5	Modern Languages performance: talking
C731 76	Higher	Modern Language performance: talking

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Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Good practice

All assessors used the SQA National 5/Higher course assessment task effectively.

Interlocutors were encouraging and supportive of their candidates during the assessment.

Although not essential, some candidates asked questions of the interlocutor, which made for spontaneous and interactive conversations.

There was a good range of contexts used which allowed candidates to display their language resources and to give more detailed responses.

Development points

Centres are reminded that candidates may refer to up to five headings of no more than eight words each as prompts during the presentation and no notes should be used for the conversation.

Interlocutors are encouraged to ask more open-ended questions to elicit more detailed candidate responses, in particular when introducing unpredictable elements. Interlocutors are also encouraged to vary their use of more predictable questions in order to create more spontaneous and interactive conversations.

Assessment judgements

Good practice

All centres used the marking instructions in the SQA National 5/Higher course assessment task effectively.

The vast majority of assessment judgements were in line with national standards and centres provided clear and concise commentaries to justify these.

There was robust internal verification in evidence from all centres.

Development points

Centres are reminded that the marks for sustaining a natural conversation should be awarded holistically on their performance throughout the conversation, **not** solely for the candidate's response to some unpredictable questions.

Interlocutors should take into account non-verbal techniques when coming to assessment judgements on the sustaining conversation element.

Centres should ensure that they refer to the whole of the *Modern Languages Performance: talking General assessment information* document, rather than using the general marking instructions in isolation.

03

Section 3: General comments

Many candidates displayed an impressive range of vocabulary and high levels of confidence, particularly at Higher level.

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of basic pronunciation, especially with commonly used words and phrases. This is particularly of importance when candidates are referring to their notes.

Centres must ensure that recordings of candidates are of a quality which will facilitate verification of their assessment judgements.

The verification of a very small number of centres was unable to proceed due to administrative errors. Centres are reminded to read all documentation and material thoroughly, ensure they know exactly what element they are being verified on in that round, and to make themselves aware of SQA terminology, including acronyms, such as IACCA (internally assessed component of course assessment).