

NQ Verification 2014–15 Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Geography
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2015

National Courses/Units verified:

H27G 73 National 3 Physical Environments

H27G 74 National 4 Physical Environments

H27H 74 National 4 Human Environments

H27J 74 National 4 Global Issues

H27G 75 National 5 Physical Environments

H27H 75 National 5 Human Environments

H27J 75 National 5 Global Issues

H27G 76 Higher Physical Environments

H27J 76 Higher Global Issues

95% of centres verified were Accepted or Accepted* for approach.

90% of centres verified were Accepted or Accepted* for judging evidence.

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Good practice

Assessment approaches included SQA Unit assessment support packs, adapted Unit assessment support packs and centre devised assessments. Local authority devised and internally verified assessments were used very effectively by some centres.

Assessment approaches included: complete Unit, interim Unit, combined approaches, and portfolio approaches.

Most centres matched the Assessment Standards to the appropriate question/task and this was helpful for the verifiers.

Assessment approaches were varied in 'question' type and were frequently geared to the needs of the cohort being presented. Open book and poster presentations allowed candidates to overtake the minimum standard in a consistent way.

Some centres are using a piece of assessment evidence generated for Course assignment to overtake a Unit Assessment Standard, therefore reducing the amount of assessment for candidates overall.

Areas for consideration

Centres must provide the assessment item and advice on judging evidence if a Unit assessment support pack is not used.

Outcomes are overtaken by completion of the Assessment Standards. When using the Assessment Standards, the wording of the Outcome must always be taken into consideration. For example, Outcome 1 in Physical Environments is mapping skills and techniques. Therefore, for example, at National 5 Assessment Standard 1.2 'Presenting geographical information, in detail, in two ways' requires the candidates to make use of a map when presenting the geographical information to demonstrate a mapping skill or technique.

For an individual candidate there is no need to include multiple assessments which cover the same Assessment Standard.

If centres use prior verified materials, they should indicate the source of this material and provide a copy of the assessment item and judging evidence table for verification.

Assessment judgements

Good practice

Most centres matched the assessment judgements to the appropriate question and Assessment Standard and this was helpful for the verifiers.

On candidate scripts some centres indicated a 'd' for credit of descriptive points and an 'e' for points of explanation.

Most assessment judgements were considered to be valid by the verifiers.

Many centres included clear information on the minimum standard required to pass each Assessment Standard. This is essential for the verification process.

A number of centres used a single assessment item and provided National 4 and National 5 judging evidence tables which clearly showed the progression needed from National 4 to National 5.

Centre comments on scripts were helpful and insightful.

A number of centres indicated on candidate scripts where Assessment Standards had been overtaken.

All centres marked candidate evidence by referring to the Assessment Standards. Allocating marks to candidate responses was an approach rarely used by centres.

Areas for consideration

Some centres did not place ticks or 1.1, 1.2 etc on candidate evidence. The use of ticks or 1.1, 1.2 etc on candidate work is helpful for verification when placed where the candidate has achieved.

When candidates are assessed verbally, evidence which indicates the verbal prompt and the candidate response which meets the minimum standard required should be submitted.

03

Section 3: General comments

Good practice

Centres provided clear evidence of quality assurance processes, including cross-marking and recorded teacher discussions about pass/fail decisions.

Some centres used departmental meetings for quality assurance.

Most centres provided detailed and clear internal verification policies on a whole-school or departmental basis.

Candidate responses showed a high level of knowledge and understanding on many occasions.

Assessors showed skill and understanding in applying Outcomes and Assessment Standards to candidate responses.

Assessors took great care in organising the materials sent in for verification.

Centres were well prepared for verification and are showing a clearer understanding of the requirements for the verification process.

Areas for consideration

The Verification Sample Form should be completed with the correct level code for candidates:

National 3	73
National 4	74
National 5	75
Higher	76

Judgements recorded on the assessment sample form completed by all centres should match the final assessment decisions on candidates' work and final decisions reached in the centre's quality assurance processes.