



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

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

National Courses/Units verified:

H7VJ	Advanced Higher	Geographical Skills
H7VK	Advanced Higher	Geographical Issues
H27G	Higher	Physical Environments
H27H	Higher	Human Environments
H27J	Higher	Global Issues
H27G	National 5	Physical Environments
H27H	National 5	Human Environments
H27J	National 5	Global Issues
H27H	National 4	Human Environments
H27G	National 3	Physical Environments
H27J	National 3	Global Issues

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Good practice

The following examples of good practice in relation to assessment approaches were observed during Round 1 of verification:

- ◆ Most centres used Unit assessment support packs and prior verified assessments.
- ◆ Some centres had very effective centre devised assessments.

- ◆ Submissions included Unit and portfolio approaches.
- ◆ Submissions included interim and complete Unit evidence.
- ◆ Assessments included oral presentations, posters, leaflets, homework and written test submissions.
- ◆ Oral presentations included a transcript of the main points made.
- ◆ Where assessments are centre devised, the internal quality assurance process should include the validity of the assessment in relation to the Outcomes and Assessment Standards.

Areas for consideration

Centres are advised to consider the following:

- ◆ From the start of session 2016–17 centres must assess candidates against the revised Outcomes and Assessment Standards.
- ◆ From the start of session 2016–17, centres using prior verified assessments must ensure that these have been prior verified in relation to the revised Outcomes and Assessment Standards.
- ◆ Centres that devise their own assessments are recommended to submit these for prior verification.
- ◆ When adapting the wording of Assessment Standards to candidate-friendly language, centres must ensure that the integrity of the Assessment Standard is maintained.

Assessment judgements

Good practice

The following examples of good practice in relation to assessment judgements were observed during Round 1 of verification:

- ◆ Assessment judgements were in line with national standards for most centres verified.
- ◆ Many centres included detailed and helpful comments about assessment judgements.
- ◆ Many centres indicated on candidate scripts where Assessment Standards were overtaken — the use of 1.1, 1.2 etc and the use of ‘d’ for description and ‘e’ for explanation provided clarity.
- ◆ The use of sticky notes and ticks to indicate where Assessment Standards have been overtaken was helpful.
- ◆ Many centres included a summary grid to indicate which Assessment Standards had been overtaken by each candidate.
- ◆ Where centres had robust verification policies, assessment judgements were more likely to be consistent and reliable.

Areas for consideration

Centres are advised to consider the following:

- ◆ When candidates are assessed orally, evidence which indicates the oral prompt and the candidate response should be submitted.
- ◆ When candidates have been re-assessed orally their responses should be recorded by the assessor and submitted as evidence for verification.
- ◆ It is helpful for verification if ticks are placed at the place on the candidate script where an Assessment Standard is overtaken.
- ◆ Each Assessment Standard needs to be assessed once only.
- ◆ Candidates need to be re-assessed only for Assessment Standards they have not overtaken. There is no need to re-assess Assessment Standards which candidates have already achieved.
- ◆ It is only necessary to submit candidate materials which relate to the Unit being verified.
- ◆ Where cross-marking has taken place, assessors should agree the final decision for each candidate and include this decision in the evidence submitted for verification.

03

Section 3: General comments

Many centres had clear internal verification policies to show how quality assurance ensures national standards had been applied.

Quality assurance templates were devised by some centres to give a clear and staged protocol for quality assurance.

The Verification Sample Form was completed appropriately by most centres.

The reasons for Not Accepted outcomes were as follows:

Advanced Higher — Geographical Skills

AS 1.2 — candidates did not justify their choice of sampling method.

AS 1.2 — candidates selected only three sample sites which is insufficient at this level.

AS 2.2 — the data collected by candidates was not enclosed as evidence.

Higher — Physical Environments

AS 1.2 — candidates labelled diagrams rather than annotating them with further/additional information.

AS 2.2 — candidates must explain the **impact** of the weather/climate on the physical environment.

Higher — Human Environments

AS 1.2 — gather techniques should be appropriate to Higher — eg downloading a photograph from the internet is not appropriate at this level.

AS 1.3 — processing techniques should be appropriate to Higher — eg a simple bar/line graph is not appropriate at this level.

N5 – Physical Environments

AS 1.1 — candidates did not identify and explain the key patterns found.