



NQ Verification 2014–15

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

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

National Courses/Units verified:

H27K 74 National 4 Geography Added Value Unit

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Good practice

All centres used the Added Value Unit assessment support pack as directed by SQA.

Some centres wrote the Assessment Standards in candidate-friendly language to promote achievement of the minimum standard required to meet the national standard.

Areas for consideration

When writing an Assessment Standard in candidate-friendly language, centres must ensure that the integrity of the Assessment Standard is maintained.

Assessment judgements

Good practice

Assessment judgements were in line with national standards for all but one centre verified.

Many centres indicated on candidate scripts where Assessment Standards were overtaken — by using 1.1, 1.2, etc plus 'd' for description and 'e' for explanation.

Assessment approaches included complete Unit and interim Unit submissions.

Assessment approaches were varied with both fieldwork and book/internet-based submissions. Written reports, PowerPoint and poster presentations allowed candidates to overtake the national standard.

Areas for consideration

When candidates are assessed verbally, centres should include the verbal prompt and a record of candidate responses when submitting evidence that meets the minimum standard.

Assessment Standard 1.5 states: 'Applying the skills of interpreting maps or fieldwork or numerical/graphical information'. Many centres overtook this through written responses. Some centres overtook this by annotation of the source; however, centres must be clear that AS1.5 can be overtaken by candidates using annotation only if the annotation explicitly includes interpretation.

03

Section 3: General comments

Where candidates have used websites as sources of information for Assessment Standard 1.2 (Collecting relevant information from at least two sources), it is good practice to include the website addresses to allow verifiers to refer to these as necessary.

Some centres included screenshots of websites that had been used and this was very helpful for verification.

When candidates have been re-assessed orally it is essential that their responses are recorded by the assessor and submitted as evidence at verification.

One centre used a template — similar to the N5 Assignment — which was very helpful in guiding candidates successfully through the Assessment Standards.

Some centres used copies of the N5 Assignment and re-marked these using the Outcomes and Assessment Standards for the Added Value Unit. They attached relevant diagrams/graphs/photographs to support the verification process. This could reduce the overall amount of assessment for centres and candidates.

Many centres had clear internal verification policies which helped to ensure that the national standard had been applied.

A more focused research question produces a more successful Added Value Unit.

More centres are including choices within fieldwork programmes to allow candidates to personalise their learning and individualise the Added Value Unit.