



**National Qualifications 2012
Internal Assessment Report
Geography NQ**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

DF3C 10: Geography: Physical Environments (Intermediate 1)
DF44 10: Geography: Environmental Interactions (Intermediate 1)
DF3C 11: Geography: Physical Environments (Intermediate 2)
DF43 11: Geography: Human Environments (Intermediate 2)
DF44 11: Geography: Environmental Interactions (Intermediate 2)
DF3C 12: Geography: Physical Environments (Higher)
DF43 12: Geography: Human Environments (Higher)
DF44 12: Geography: Environmental Interactions (Higher)
DF48 13: Geographical Study (Advanced Higher)
DF49 13: Geographical Issues (Advanced Higher)
DF4A 13: Geographical Methods and Techniques (Advanced Higher)

General comments

Out of a total of 35 centres verified, only one, at Advanced Higher, Geographical Methods and Techniques (GMT) was deemed to be 'Not Accepted'. This centre, after advice from the verification team, provided the necessary evidence for the centre to be deemed 'Accepted'.

The following advice has been included in previous reports to support centres with new staff:

- ◆ The candidate evidence matches with the list of names on the Verification Sample form VS00 as supplied by SQA.
- ◆ There is a clear and definite approach to marking, suggesting a clear internal verification process is being followed.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Across all levels, the information relating to internal assessment seems to be well understood by centres and used appropriately. It is encouraging to note that centres are using up-to-date assessment materials which support the current arrangements; this has been highlighted as an issue in previous reports.

Evidence Requirements

The majority of centres have a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the National Standards. However, verification highlighted an issue with the Advanced Higher Geographical Methods and Techniques Unit. This issue relates to centres not providing, with the submitted evidence, the ordnance survey map and marking scheme used in the assessment.

Administration of assessments

An increasing number of centres have adopted a policy of cross marking/internal verification procedures.

Almost all centres administer instruments of assessment at the appropriate levels and in accordance with the current guidelines.

Areas of good practice

Increasing number of centres are following the advice given in previous years by including front covers that provide the information required for both internal and external verification.

One centre submitted with their evidence the departmental 'Policy for Internal Verification of NABs'. This 'six stage' policy supported by the assessment evidence gave the verifier insight into their internal verification processes, which allowed the verifier to easily confirm the accuracy of the assessment decisions for that centre.

Feedback from verifiers identified the following key strengths:

- ◆ The team were able to report, again, that this year's sample of centres was applying marking schemes well and were clearly indicating where marks were being awarded on candidates' evidence.
- ◆ Ticks on candidates' work are useful and help to identify where the teacher is giving credit.
- ◆ A growing number of centres, when marking, include annotated comments which help the verifier to understand the marking of candidates' work by the centre.
- ◆ A few centres use (d) for description or (e) for explanation etc, which also aids the verification process.
- ◆ The issue at Advanced Higher in relation to the understanding of the GMT requirements as highlighted in last year's report did not present a problem this year. Centres seem to have taken on board the advice given.

Specific areas for improvement

The verification team highlighted the following points for consideration:

- ◆ It would be helpful if assessments and re-assessments had the date of the assessment/re-assessment clearly marked.
- ◆ Centres should not be afraid to write on candidates' scripts with comments and advice. This is part of the learning and teaching process, and is helpful to candidates in their learning and to verifiers in their understanding of the centre's assessment judgements.
- ◆ Centres could consider, when cross-marking, having the candidate evidence marked in different coloured ink then signed and dated by the cross marker.
- ◆ At Advanced Higher (GMT), two centres did not submit crucial parts of the assessment instrument (ordnance survey map and marking scheme) that was

used to generate the candidate evidence. The lack of these two pieces of evidence made it impossible for verifiers to make any judgement about the centres' decisions. Centres are therefore requested to submit for verification all the relevant supporting evidence, eg assessment item, ordinance survey map and marking scheme.

- ◆ Marking of the map interpretation evidence for the AH GMT was in many cases very generous. This gives candidates a false impression of their potential. Centre should review their practices in this area.