



**National Qualifications 2012  
Internal Assessment Report**

**Managing Environmental  
Resources**

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:

Environmental Issues (D309): This is a component Unit of the Managing Environmental Resources Course at Intermediate 1.

Natural Resources (D312): This is a component Unit of the Managing Environmental Resources Courses at Intermediate 2 and Higher.

## General comments

Most centres provided evidence of a high standard using SQA NAB materials, assessing Outcomes 1 and 2. There was no evidence for Outcome 3 submitted in the samples of work verified in this diet. It should be noted that at all levels, candidates must pass Outcome 3 in one of the components before an overall pass can be awarded.

Environmental issues are constantly changing and centres are generally adapting the mark schemes successfully to reflect the developments in the subject. This practice is to be encouraged with annotations included on the mark schemes submitted with the samples of work for verification.

Internal verification was evident in the majority of centres providing samples but the effectiveness of the process varied widely. A robust internal verification process can pick up on a multitude of issues and provide continuity within the centre and between centres.

The verification process identified a wide range of graphical skills particularly at Levels 10 and 11. Centres are encouraged to develop graph drawing skills in the candidates which will benefit them in the internal assessments and the final examination.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Centres used SQA NAB materials in all cases. The assessments were the current NABs in use and employed up-to-date marking schemes. Centres were familiar with the assessment criteria, generally adapted mark schemes appropriately, and used other NABs from the bank of assessments when re-assessment was required.

## Evidence Requirements

Centres showed a clear understanding of the evidence required. Only Outcomes 1 and 2 were verified. Outcome 3 should have been assessed in other components of the Course not sampled here.

In a small number of centres, only the assessments that passed were provided. Centres are reminded that evidence is required of passed and failed assessments. This is particularly important when a candidate changes level as a result of failed assessments, for example from Higher to Intermediate 2.

Centres should send the candidates' original assessments and not photocopies.

### **Administration of assessments**

Centres have generally administered the NAB assessments successfully and at the appropriate level for the candidates. In a small number of cases, the assessments have informed the centre of the need for a change in level.

Centres exhibit a range of approaches to internal verification. In all cases where a robust internal verification process was employed, the administration and allocation of marks was clear to the centre, the candidate and the Verifier. Note should be taken by centres of the 'good practice' comments regarding internal verification.

### **Areas of good practice**

Most centres understand and administer the assessments successfully but the best practice also includes a robust internal verification of the scripts. Some centres provided evidence of internal verification where two markers had assessed the candidates' work. Each marker used a different coloured pen (eg red and green) and it was very clear where marks were credited to the candidate. End-of-Unit total marks were clear and markers had signed their mark for the assessment.

Centres should continue to upgrade the mark schemes with developments in the environmental field. The mark schemes with amendments and annotations should be included in the sample of work sent for verification.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

- ◆ All evidence, both passes and fails, should be submitted for verification.
- ◆ Centres should provide the candidates' original work and not photocopies.
- ◆ Candidates should be encouraged to use the graph grids provided in the assessments and not draw their own frameworks.
- ◆ Centres should be encouraged to teach candidates specific graph drawing skills for the internal assessments and the final examination.
- ◆ While it is good practice for centres to give feedback after an assessment, it is not advisable for the candidates to record the feedback on their script. This practice can lead to confusion in verifying the assessment internally and externally.
- ◆ Centres should not give half marks and are encouraged to record '0' on the script even when a candidate fails to score in a part/section.
- ◆ Centres are strongly encouraged to use a robust internal verification process that is clear and transparent to all involved.