



**National Qualifications
Internal Assessment Report 2012**

Geology

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

National Qualifications (NQ) Awards

Titles/levels of NQ Awards verified:

Geology: The Study of the Earth	Intermediate 1
History of the Earth	Intermediate 1
Minerals and Rocks	Intermediate 2
Earth Physics, Structural Geology and Plate Tectonics	Higher

General comments

Submissions from all centres were very good or excellent. All showed a clear understanding of the required national standards of assessment.

Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The majority of assessors showed familiarity with Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials. The one minor exception arose in Geology: The Study of the Earth (Intermediate 1) where one assessor did not use the required list of fossils for assessment purposes.

Evidence Requirements

All assessors, with the minor exception above, showed a clear understanding of the Unit Evidence Requirements.

Administration of assessments

All centres used NABs and (in the case of Geology: The Study of the Earth) nationally provided materials for assessments of mineral, rock and fossil properties and identification. All assessments were, therefore, at the appropriate level and all candidates had been assessed at the appropriate level.

There was no evidence of internal verification, which may be due to few centres having more than one teacher of Geology.

Areas of good practice

NABs were used in all centres and marking instructions were followed accurately.

Specific areas for improvement

There was evidence that some assessors may have been slightly lenient in the application of the marking instructions. Centres are encouraged to apply the marking scheme rigorously and contact SQA for advice if clarification is required.

Assessors may write feedback comments on the candidate's script to assist the candidate with remediation or preparation for the Course assessment. This can be done regardless of whether the candidate has achieved the threshold for a pass in the Unit. It is helpful if the assessor uses a different colour of pen so the verifier can clearly distinguish between the candidate's and the assessor's comments.