



# **National Qualifications 2012 Internal Assessment Report History**

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:

History Intermediate 1  
History Intermediate 2  
History Higher

## General comments

Ninety per cent of centres had a very clear understanding of the National Standard.

The vast majority of centres assessed candidates to the National Standard. A few centres were just within either side (severe/lenient) of the tolerance limits but they were consistent in their assessment. In most cases, this was limited to the allocation of marks for Structure and Analysis for Higher essays.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Centres all used current NABs. Older versions of the NABs which do not match the current assessment criteria will not be accepted.

Almost all the centres verified for Higher History used the marking grid for essays. Candidates were awarded separate marks for argument, structure and knowledge, which were clearly based on the marking grid and which were added to give an overall mark out of 20.

For the short Intermediate 2 essay, centres were allocating three marks to the introduction/conclusion but there were some cases where candidates were being credited for points which, while related to the question, did not answer it. Marks should only be awarded for points that are relevant and clearly explained.

Candidates answering source evaluation questions for Intermediate need only comment about one piece of content from the source to get the maximum of one mark. There is a maximum of one mark for origin, authorship/bias, possible purpose and content omission.

## Evidence Requirements

A few centres withdrew candidates who had failed the level for which they had been entered or submitted evidence of success at a lower level.

Scripts which fail to achieve the pass mark should be submitted to show that the centre is accurate in its assessment of pass and fail scripts – especially at the borderline.

### **Administration of assessments**

Some centres changed the level of weak candidates to a more appropriate level.

Candidates who fail to progress — eg from Intermediate 1 to Intermediate 2 — are usually withdrawn.

### **Areas of good practice**

The quantity and quality of feedback given to candidates by centres has been increasing over the years. This feedback is not only helpful to candidates because it shows them exactly where they have achieved credit or where/why they have failed to do so, it is also very helpful to the verifiers.

Most centres used marking codes for feedback rather than using basic ticks. This helps candidates understand why they have achieved credit. There is still considerable variation in the codes used, even within centres. The SQA has a marking code for History and it would be helpful to candidates and verifiers if this code was used consistently.

There is increasing evidence that centres are using cross-marking to ensure that their assessments are accurate and consistent within their centre.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

The use of the SQA's marker codes will show candidates where they have been successful in gaining credit. This will reinforce their comprehension of Outcomes as well as their confidence and competence in achieving them.

Cross-marking will bring more consistency within a centre and will increase candidates' confidence in their achievement.