



**National Qualifications 2012
Internal Assessment Report
Psychology**

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:

DF5L 12 Psychology: Investigating Behaviour (Higher)

DF5L 10 Psychology: Investigating Behaviour (Intermediate 1)

DF5L 11 Psychology: Investigating Behaviour (Intermediate 2)

F5B4 12 Psychology: Understanding the Individual (Higher)

General comments

There was strong evidence that candidates understood the research that they undertook.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Assessors were assessing appropriately according to the Unit Specifications. All used the NAB assessments for the respective Units. Almost all used these appropriately. There was a small issue with allowing add-ons to minor non-achievement, rather than offering a reassessment paper. This is not appropriate according to the guidelines for assessment given in the NAB assessment instruments.

Evidence Requirements

Centres appear to be familiar with the evidence requirements in all cases.

Unfortunately, a few centres did not provide sufficient evidence to allow verification to be completed in the Investigating Behaviour Unit (DF5L 10, 11 and 12). In these Units both the closed book assessment and the logbook (with associated materials) should be completed to achieve in the Unit. Although the centres indicated that candidates had passed the Unit's requirements, no logbook and associated materials were provided to allow verification of these assessment decisions. This shows that centres were not as familiar with the Evidence Requirements as they should have been.

Administration of assessments

The majority of centres have a good understanding of the appropriate way to administer the required assessments. Unfortunately a few centres have allowed candidates to add on to their answers in DF5L 12 where they have narrowly missed passing. Although this was allowed in older versions of the Unit assessment, it is now not appropriate in current NAB assessments. It is not good practice and does not prepare candidates well for the external exam in Psychology (as many of the candidates are sitting the Unit to contribute towards a Course award).

Areas of good practice

In some centres marking clearly indicates the allocation of KU and AE marks. This is helpful for both Internal and External Verification. It may also give candidates an indication of where they might improve their performance in preparation for the exam or other Units.

Some centres gave written comments on candidates' work indicating where further information was needed. This was helpful for verification. Good constructive feedback was given to students at all levels of the Unit DF5L. Comments indicating where credit was given for other answers or where a mix-up had still been credited were helpful for verification.

The use of a feedback sheet on each candidate's work was helpful. Particularly good practice was seen in one that gave space for learner comments as well as assessor comments.

Specific areas for improvement

Candidates who have not passed an NAB assessment on the first attempt should be given an alternative resit paper. This would give a more accurate indication of their ability and would prepare them better for future Unit assessments and for the national exam.

In a few centres it would be useful to show the KU and AE marks in the margin as they occur in candidate's work, as that would help verification and would aid candidates in their understanding of the marks gained.

Centres should make sure that they provide the logbooks (and associated copies of bar charts, raw data and other appendices) for each candidate when being centrally verified for the Unit Investigating Behaviour to be sure that all appropriate materials are available to allow verification to be completed.