



**National Qualifications 2012
Internal Assessment Report
Urdu**

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

National Courses

Titles/levels of National Courses verified:

Urdu Higher

General comments

Overall, candidates had been well prepared for the Higher Speaking assessment. Most spoke fluently, used grammar accurately and displayed a good range of vocabulary for this level. Most interlocutors were sympathetic in their questioning and asked open-ended questions to bring out the best in their candidates. On the whole, national standards for Speaking assessments in Modern Languages had been accurately applied.

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

Verifiers noted that most centres have a good understanding of the Course Arrangements and Unit specifications. In most cases, it was clear that these documents had been carefully consulted and that the criteria in the document *National Qualifications Assessments for Speaking in Modern Languages* had been accurately applied.

However, a small percentage of centres were Not Accepted because they did not follow the appropriate pegged marking scheme when assigning candidates a mark. Centres should ensure that the candidates' performance in Speaking is assessed using the criteria and pegged marking scheme provided in the *National Qualifications Assessments for Speaking in Modern Languages* document.

Evidence Requirements

All centres were aware that CDs or cassettes had to be submitted. Some centres submitted recordings of good quality, but there were a number of instances where the candidate could have been more clearly heard had there been less background noise.

In some cases, there were disruptions, eg bell/phone ringing, people talking, doors opening etc. Also, for some of the assessments the microphone/recording device was too far away from the candidate, which made the recording very quiet even at full volume. Centres are advised to review their recording preparation to ensure the best possible assessment conditions — a calm and peaceful environment, free of disturbances where possible.

Administration of assessments

A wide range of topics was employed to cover the three main themes at Higher level. Candidates used good vocabulary and accurate grammar, covering more than two topics along with the main topic, which made their performance well beyond the required level. Interlocutors asked open-ended questions to bring out

the best in their candidates and some excellent performances were noted. It was clear that candidates were well prepared and able to demonstrate their ability within the minimum/maximum time limit.

However, some poorer performances were noted where the assessment time guideline was not adhered to. In some cases, the presentation element was too long, leaving candidates with limited time for the discussion and follow-up questions. Also, in some cases there was a degree of direct repetition in the presentation and the discussion part of the assessments.

Centres are advised to follow the guidelines provided in *National Qualifications Assessments for Speaking in Modern Languages*.

Areas of good practice

Overall, candidates performed very well, particularly in those centres that have presented candidates in previous years. Candidates were well prepared and some excellent performances were noted. A wide range of topics were covered, and a range of excellent/challenging vocabulary was used. Fluent speakers used grammar accurately and were given the opportunity to show what they could do within the specified time limit.

Specific areas for improvement

A small percentage of centres were Not Accepted because the pegged marking scheme within the document *National Qualifications Assessments for Speaking in Modern Languages* was not used to assess the candidates' performance. Centres should ensure these guidelines are consulted when assessing candidates in Speaking.

Centres are advised to review their recording preparation. The candidate should be close to the microphone/recording device to ensure a clear recording, and the assessment should be conducted under quiet/calm conditions, free of disruptions where possible.