



# NQ Verification 2014–15

## Key Messages Round 2

01

### Section 1: Verification group information

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Verification group name:                | Italian   |
| Verification event/visiting information | Event     |
| Date published:                         | June 2015 |

#### National Courses/Units verified:

H219 74 Italian: National 4 Added Value Unit

C742 75 Italian: National 5 Talking performance

C742 76 Italian Higher IACCA — Talking performance

02

### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

A small number of centres were selected for verification. The key messages and advice are as follows.

The approach to assessment by all centres verified was valid and accepted.

For the Added Value Unit, centre-devised assessments were effectively used to assess the candidates.

For the National 5 and Higher talking performances, SQA National 5 and Higher Course Assessment tasks had been used appropriately to assess all candidates.

All interlocutors were encouraging, helpful and sympathetic.

Where possible, centres are advised to provide candidates with scope to generate a greater variety of responses during the conversation.

A wider variety of questions in the conversation can aid candidates to develop strategies to cope with the unexpected (in line with appendix 1 of the SQA 'General Assessment Information' document).

Centres are reminded that a more natural, flowing conversation results when the interlocutor responds to the candidates' answers and asks appropriate follow-up questions.

Centres are reminded that when candidates seek help during the assessment they should do so in the foreign language.

At Higher level the chosen topics for the performance provided candidates with a good opportunity to show a range of structures and tenses in order to express opinions and ideas at this level. They also provided scope for candidates to demonstrate accurate handling of natural and detailed language.

At Higher level there were a number of candidates who showed real flair and ability to manipulate language effectively.

### **Assessment judgements**

The assessment judgements for all centres were reliable and the marks awarded in line with national standards. Advice on judging candidate evidence was correctly applied.

Assessors had made effective use of the Marking Instructions and demonstrated a good knowledge of how to apply these in awarding marks to each candidate.

All Outcomes and Assessment Standards were assessed at an appropriate level by the centres.

Centre commentary was very useful as it demonstrated how assessment judgements were made.

03

## **Section 3: General comments**

There is evidence that the internal verification process adopted by most centres is thorough and effective. Documented professional dialogue between assessor and internal verifier promotes consistency of standards.

There is evidence of very effective internal verification from some centres, which is to be commended.

Most centres provided useful and effective feedback to individual candidates as evidenced in the candidate assessment records.

Some centres provided very useful and detailed commentary in the candidate assessment record and the assessor's report against the marks awarded for each section of the talking performance. In particular it was useful for the internal verifier and the external nominee verifier to have an explanation as to why the centre opted for one pegged mark over another for each section of the performance.

Verifiers commented positively on the organisation and presentation of evidence by centres.