NQ Verification 2014–15
Key Messages Round 2

01 Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	**Mathematics**
Verification event/visiting information	**Event**
Date published:	**June 2015**

National Courses/Units verified:

H22H 74 Mathematics Test (National 4) Added Value Unit
H228 74 Lifeskills Mathematics Test (National 4) Added Value Unit

02 Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

In Round 2, only Added Value Units were selected for verification. Nearly all centres used SQA's Mathematics Test (National 4) Added Value Unit or the Lifeskills Mathematics Test (National 4) Added Value Unit unchanged.

From session 2015–16, in addition to the published SQA assessments, centres are free to devise Added Value assessments and/or re-assessments using their own questions, within the conditions detailed in the Mathematics Test (National 4) Added Value Unit assessment support pack. Centres are strongly encouraged to submit their own assessments to SQA for prior verification so they can be confident that their assessments meet the national standard.

Centres are also free to devise Added Value assessments and/or re-assessments for the National 4 Lifeskills Mathematics Course.

Assessment judgements

The majority of centres made reliable judgements.

In the Mathematics Added Value test, assessment judgements can be made by achieving half of the operational marks and half of the reasoning marks or 60% of

the total marks. Centres are asked to apply the most beneficial option for each candidate.

Re-assessments

Centres are reminded that candidates requiring re-assessment should sit another version of the whole test, ie Part 1 and Part 2.

Mathematics

Re-assessments can be created using the questions in the Mathematics Test (National 4) Added Value Unit — additional questions Unit assessment support pack, ensuring that the test meets the conditions detailed on page 6 of the document.

Centres may find the National 4 Mathematics Added Value Unit Analysis Grid helpful.

Lifeskills Mathematics

Re-assessments can be created using the questions in the Lifeskills Mathematics Test (National 4) Added Value Unit — additional questions Unit assessment support pack.

Centres may find the National 4 Lifeskills Mathematics Added Value Unit Analysis Grid helpful.

03 Section 3: General comments

There were many examples of excellent marking and internal verification. However, some centres did not make final marking decisions clear in the event of disagreements between the original marker and the internal verifier. Once a final decision has been made, this should be shared with other centre staff.

Some centres are not consistently applying follow-through marking. Where a candidate has made an error, subsequent working must be checked to see if further marks can be awarded according to the marking instructions.

Most centres are clearly encouraging candidates to include Units in all final answers. In general, units are required as part of the solution where a change of units occurs, eg calculation of the area of a rectangle from its length and breadth would require units as part of the solution whereas calculation of the perimeter would not.

Candidates should not normally be penalised more than once for equivalent omissions in an assessment opportunity (test).

Candidates should not be penalised for making a repeated error within a question. However, should be penalised between questions or papers.

Some centres did not take appropriate care when marking questions involving scatter graphs and line of best fit. All points should be carefully checked for accuracy. A line of best fit should be drawn as a single straight line.