



NQ Verification 2015–6 Key Messages Round 1

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Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Media
Verification event/visiting information	Event 1 and Visiting Verification
Date published:	March 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

H235 73	National 3	Media: Analysing Media Content
H235 74	National 4	Media: Analysing Media Content
H238 75	National 5	Media: Creating Media Content
H235 76	Higher	Media: Analysing Media Content

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Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Overall, centres had submitted approaches to assessment making good use of the Unit assessment support packs (UASPs). Some centres applied and implemented Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) principles by adapting assessment approaches that took account of the Assessment Standards and guidelines in the UASPs. These amendments to the UASPs were made to fit with specific media content or to be more supportive to candidates with specific learning needs. This can often allow candidates some degree of personalisation and choice as well as depth, breadth and challenge.

A minority of centres had developed their own assessment instruments and these did not fully allow candidates to meet all Assessment Standards.

At Higher level a wide range of texts were being taught and, in a number of cases, centres had chosen to use a thematic approach, which may allow candidates to have a greater degree of personalisation and choice.

Guidance for centres on approaches to assessment

The UASPs for Media set out one possible assessment approach. These can also be adapted for individual contexts or used to help develop new assessments. Centres are encouraged to adapt the assessments and to use alternative approaches to facilitate personalisation and choice. Candidates can also produce evidence during learning and teaching.

For centre-produced assessments or adapted UASPs, which are significantly different, the free prior verification service can be used to ensure they are valid.

If a UASP approach is being used, it should be the most up-to-date version published on the SQA Secure site. Information about updates to NQ Media UASPs can be found in the documents 'Expressive Arts National 3 to National 5 Notification of Changes' and 'Expressive Arts Higher Notification of Changes' on [the National Qualifications — Notification of Changes web page](#).

Assessment judgements

For the majority of centres the judgements being made at levels N3, N4 and N5 are reliable and consistent, showing a good understanding of all Assessment Standards.

At Higher, most centres are now consistently applying assessment judgements which meet the national standard. Candidates are developing more detailed and complex responses which lead to clear analysis and responses which are justified through informed textual referencing.

There is still some confusion over how to overtake Assessment Standard 1.5 in the Higher Analysing Media Content Unit. There is no discrete assessment task for this Assessment Standard; evidence is generated during the tasks for Assessment Standards 1.1–1.4. It is important to remember that candidates must apply knowledge of three key aspects during their analysis of content and contexts or role of media in order to achieve 1.5. For example, it is not sufficient to cover three content-based key aspects only and no context-based key aspects.

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Section 3: General comments

Internal verification

The majority of centres had submitted evidence of internal verification and, in most cases, this had been effective in both supporting the assessor and in ensuring approaches to assessment were valid and assessment judgements were reliable and in line with national standards.

Documentation was generally very well done, especially where centres recorded assessment judgements using the material in the published UASPs. Some centres are developing their own recording profiles based on individual candidate records. This is good practice as it can be used as scaffolding for the candidates and is a clear indicator of how internal verification has been carried out.

As well as ensuring national standards are maintained, internal verification should ensure that assessors are fully supported through the process of internal assessment. Internal verifiers and assessors may find the suggested approach in the [SQA Internal Verification Toolkit](#) useful to ensure national standards are maintained, assessors are supported and paperwork is not excessive.

Some examples of 'rich' briefs have been developed in Creating Media Content. These allow the candidate to personalise their response both as to how and what they should research and the level of finish required.

A number of centres showed good practice in the delivery of the approaches and in the manner in which the assessment judgements were generated. These will be exemplified on the Understanding Standards section of the secure website.

[A Media Common Questions document is available.](#)

Prior verification

Centres are strongly advised to submit centre-produced assessments for prior verification if these differ significantly from the Unit assessment support packs. This should be requested before assessments are used with candidates.

If a centre has used a prior verified assessment, the verification certificate should be included with material submitted for external verification. Further information can be found on the [Delivery Processes and Information for Centres web page](#).

Verification Sample Form

It is important that this is completed correctly with reference to pass/fail. This does not reflect candidates' final Unit results, just the evidence submitted for verification at that point in time. This is explained at the bottom of the form and in the following examples:

- ◆ If you have submitted evidence for three Outcomes and the candidate has passed two but failed one, you should insert 'Fail' on the Verification Sample Form. This does not reflect the completed Unit result but only the evidence supplied for verification.
- ◆ If you have submitted evidence for one Outcome and the candidate has passed that Outcome, you should insert 'Pass' for that candidate even though they have not yet completed the Unit.