



**National Qualifications 2013
Internal Assessment Report
Biology and Human Biology**

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

National Qualifications Units

Titles/levels of Units verified:

Access 3 Biology

D023 09 Health and Technology

Intermediate 1 Biology

D023 10 Health and Technology

Intermediate 2 Biology

D026 11 Living Cells

D027 11 Environmental Biology and Genetics

Higher Biology

D029 12 Cell Biology

Revised Higher Biology

FH2J 12 Sustainability and Interdependence

Advanced Higher Biology

D033 13 Environmental Biology

Revised Higher Human Biology

FH2K 12 Human Cells

General comments

All centres sampled used the recommended NAB assessments together with the practical assessment instruments. This allowed the process of central verification to be carried out successfully.

The published marking instructions were carefully, accurately and consistently applied by centres for all levels sampled.

The highly recommended practice of internal verification was much in evidence and continues to be an invaluable aid to central verification, as well as an effective development tool.

There were no arithmetic errors encountered and the centres sampled are commended on their efforts.

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

The sample size and coursework evidence supplied by all centres was as requested with the exception of one centre that failed to supply evidence for Outcome 3 — practical reports.

All centres sampled used the appropriate NAB and issued marking instructions. Marking was clear, concise and accurate. An increased number of centres indicated the highly recommended practice of internal verification. There were no arithmetic errors.

Evidence Requirements

In all cases the evidence supplied was appropriate to the level being sampled, and the various cut-off scores for the different NABs were correctly applied.

Administration of assessments

NAB assessments published by SQA and recommended practical investigations were used by the centres sampled.

There was a marked improvement in both the number of centres using some form of internal verification and in how differences between the Marker and Verifier were indicated.

Areas of good practice

While internal verification procedures are widespread, they are not yet universal. A robust internal verification process is an invaluable aid to verification.

Comments by the assessor can be of value to the candidate as a form of feedback as well as an aid to verification when there are doubts to giving or not giving marks due to ambiguity.

Specific areas for improvement

Candidates should be made aware of the differences between 'accurate' and 'reliable' and the different ways in which these can be achieved during experimental work.

The need for controls and repetition should be emphasised as well as the recognition of possible faults and sources of error.

Candidates' conclusions and evaluations should have a direct link to the evidence that they have been actively involved in collecting.

It would be helpful if centres followed the recommended procedure of indicating on candidate reports where the performance criterion is achieved.