



**National Qualifications 2013
Internal Assessment Report
Chemistry**

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

National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of NQ Units verified:

The World of Carbon H D070/12

Energy Matters H D069/12

Carbon compounds Int2 D067/11

Building Blocks Int2 D066/11

Chemistry and Life Int1 D065/10

Chemistry in Action Int1 D063/10

General comments

A higher number than ever, 73% of centres verified at this event, showed evidence of best practice of internal verification which identified and corrected a number of assessment errors. Seven per cent of centres verified had applied internal verification to Outcomes 1 and 2, but not to Outcome 3 (the PPA reports). The majority of centres showed clear evidence of best practice of redrafting Outcome 3 reports. The quality of graphs was very good with clear labels, units, accurate plotting and good attempts at lines of best fit; only 7% of centres verified accepted graphs which 'joined the dots'. Eighty-seven per cent of centres provided copies of the instruments of assessment plus mark schemes as requested by SQA, but 13% could not be Accepted at verification because they did not include Outcome 3 evidence in the materials submitted.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Assessors are all familiar with the Course Arrangements, the Unit specifications and the instruments of assessment, which are all provided by SQA.

Evidence Requirements

Eighty per cent of centres verified showed a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements for each of the Units verified. Thirteen per cent did not submit all the candidate evidence required for verification (Outcome 3 evidence was missing) and 7% submitted Outcome 3 reports written on pre-2000 pro formas, which do not have the core skill of evaluation embedded.

Administration of assessments

All assessment instruments and mark schemes are provided by SQA.

The assessment seen in 20% of centres tended to be lenient.

Seventy-three per cent of centres verified showed evidence of best practice of internal verification. In a small, single-teacher department it is not always possible to internally verify (cross-mark) candidate evidence so some small

centres combine with other science departments in the same centre or with other chemistry departments in nearby centres to internally verify candidate evidence.

Areas of good practice

Seventy-three per cent of centres verified showed evidence of best practice of internal verification which identified and corrected a number of assessment errors. In the majority of centres, assessment of both Outcomes 1 and 2 and Outcome 3 evidence was careful, accurate and in line with national standards, and marks were correctly totalled.

Outcomes 1 and 2: customised NABs were seen with two boxes added to the front page of each test, one box for feedback to the candidate from the assessor, the other for feedback from the Internal Verifier.

Outcome 3: the majority of centres encouraged candidates to redraft the report to ensure that:

- ◆ all graphs used lines of best fit
- ◆ calculated rates of reaction used sufficient significant figures to give the correct level of accuracy
- ◆ scales used on graphs were correct and points were plotted accurately

Specific areas for improvement

- ◆ Outcome 3 reports are assessed by judging whether or not the candidate has overtaken a number of Performance Criteria, hence these reports should be signed and dated by the assessor.
- ◆ In order to keep in line with the national standard, centres should use the nationally agreed pro forma for Outcome 3 reports.
- ◆ Centres are to be commended for their use of internal verification, however where changes are made to the total an indication as to the reason for the change should be evident.
- ◆ Although most assessment was accurate, some centres showed a tendency to be lenient and, on one occasion, whole questions assessing Outcomes 1 and 2 had not been marked.
- ◆ Evidence for Outcome 3 on post-2000 pro formas needs to be supplied for all candidates listed on evidence form VS00.
- ◆ Outcome 3 pro forma: a minority of centres are still using pre-2000 report forms which do not have the skill of evaluation embedded so cannot be Accepted at verification. Verification of all NQ levels requires Outcome 3 evidence from Unit 1 only; the material used must have (revised 2000) at the top right-hand side of the page.