



**National Qualifications 2011
Internal Assessment Report
Drama and Theatre Arts**

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

Standard Grade

Titles/levels of Standard Grade qualifications verified

Standard Grade Drama — Creating and Presenting (Credit, General and Foundation)

General comments

The visiting Verifiers reported that all centres were well prepared for the procedure, and that the majority of staff and pupils were clear about the purpose of the visit and what to expect.

All the centres that were verified displayed a clear and accurate understanding of the national standards and requirements.

In most centres, the use of the exemplar lesson plan from the *Information for Centres* documentation helped the procedures to run very smoothly.

All Verifiers commented that the Creating Element was particularly effective. The practical discussion/exploration of the stimulus material enabled all pupils to participate fully.

Verifiers also reported that they were impressed by the way pupils at all levels were given opportunities to fulfil their potential.

A number of lead/principal teachers use the SQA verification process to carry out their internal verification. This has proved effective with candidates being very aware of the success criteria.

There was also clear evidence that some centres regularly encourage teachers to assess each other's classes. This is to be commended as it will add to the rigour of the internal verification process.

The evaluation pieces were acceptable in all the centres that were verified. Some centres use templates with set questions for their evaluation pieces and this appears to work well.

Areas of good practice/areas for improvement

As in previous years, some centres had one teacher taking the lesson while the lead/principal teacher carried out the verification procedure. In all centres where this happened, verifiers commented on its effectiveness.

Also, as in previous years, some centres requested that other members of the department (teachers in training, newly qualified teachers, etc) observe the verification process. This can be a valuable continuing professional development exercise, but it should be noted that the presence of other staff members could put undue pressure on candidates. The final discussion and agreement on grades should be done with only the Verifier and lead/principal teacher present.

Most centres identified the same six pupils for assessment in both the Creating and Presenting Elements. Verifiers commented that this was helpful. The instances where the number of candidates present was limited to around 16 were particularly effective. This number allows the pupils being assessed to be equally spread around the class, and also helps the Verifier to quickly get to know the group.

Although all centres were well prepared for the exercise, it was still felt by Verifiers that in some cases the Presenting Element was rushed. If left to flow naturally, the Creating Element of the drama process will often take longer than the Presenting Element, but it should be noted that both Elements are of equal weighting and candidates must be given time to demonstrate their ability in both.

The recommended duration of the verification exercise is a complete morning.