



# **National Qualifications 2011 Internal Assessment Report German**

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

# National Courses

## Titles/levels of National Courses verified

German: Speaking at Intermediate 1

German: Speaking at Intermediate 2

German: Speaking at Higher

### General comments

Most centres continue to have a good understanding of the national standards.

They entered their candidates at an appropriate level and judged the performances according to the requirements as illustrated by the submitted tapes/CDs.

Centres which were Not Accepted were found to be marking too severely.

In a very few cases, centres showed unwillingness to put more than a few candidates at the top level. Centres should, rather, adhere closely to the Grade Related Criteria.

Assessors were found to have good familiarity with the Course Arrangements and other exemplification materials. They should continue to check the Arrangements documents for the choice of topic for the appropriate level.

### Intermediate 1

In only one case, the Intermediate 1 NAB was not submitted; centres should ensure that they submit all required materials and paperwork.

There is clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements in most cases.

However, a significant number of centres allow the presentation to be over long and the conversation to be unnecessarily prolonged. Timings should be adhered to more strictly.

### Areas of good practice

Candidates in most centres showed the results of excellent preparation by their teachers in the wide range of their vocabulary and use of structures.

Good preparation clearly paid off for candidates where the assessor asked open-ended questions and allowed the candidates to illustrate their knowledge. Sympathetic questioning was a feature of most centres and resulted in some very pleasing conversations where candidates were able to converse spontaneously and use structures and vocabulary to illustrate their points.

There was excellent integration into the discussion of topics such as Tourism in some areas of the country where this is most relevant.

### Areas for improvement

Some candidates delivered the presentation at a fast rate and thereby disadvantaged themselves. It would be advisable to practise with candidates to ensure they deliver at a normal pace.

A few good performances were let down by poor pronunciation.

Assessors should ensure that the timings are accurate. It is of no value to exceed the time limit for either the presentation or conversation and indeed this disadvantages some candidates who struggle to continue a conversation.

The correct completion of the Verification form continues to be an issue with some centres. In column A, the actual mark scored by the candidate should be entered.

Tapes/CDs should be blank and should be clearly labelled with the candidate's name.

The most common cause of a Not Accepted decision was unduly severe marking; centres must adhere to the national standards.