



National Qualifications 2013 Internal Assessment Report History

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:

History: Higher, Intermediate 2, Intermediate 1, Access 3

General comments

Ninety-five per cent of centres successfully applied the national standard.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All the centres sampled used NABs for their internal assessment and so there were no problems with either the instruments of assessment or the marking schemes.

Evidence Requirements

Centres produced all of the relevant evidence (NABs, marking instructions, candidate scripts).

Administration of assessments

All of the centres used NABs and 95% assessed to the national standard by applying the holistic marking schemes.

One centre marked according to Performance Criteria and this raised issues where some candidates failed to achieve one Performance Criterion but gained more than half marks overall. In these instances the centre should have used the holistic result.

It was noted that a number of centres were just within the tolerance limits but this did not appear to have been a problem in centres which used cross-marking as part of their procedures.

Areas of good practice

An increasing number of centres are now using the marker codes (rather than universal ticks) to indicate where, and for what, credit has been given. Most of these centres are using the system used for external assessment. This makes it very clear to candidates (and to Verifiers) where, and for what, credit has been awarded. This should help the candidates by drawing their attention to how much they need to write and the skill they need to demonstrate to gain credit (eg developing points rather than just listing them, explaining exactly why something was a significant cause and not making a simple assertion). It will also help them to realise the range of evidence for which they can gain credit, eg type of source, authorship, date, purpose, content, content omission. It was felt that this was particularly useful in emphasising the importance of good analysis at Higher.

It was also noted that more centres are using cross-marking. This does help to standardise assessments within centres.

Specific areas for improvement

Marker codes are helpful to candidates and Verifiers. A very small number of centres submitted samples where there were neither ticks nor comments on the paper. If a 'comment sheet' is being used in preference to writing on candidate scripts, it should be included as part of the evidence.

Cross-marking was found to be helpful in ensuring that the national standard was being applied across all candidates within a centre.