



**National Qualifications 2014  
Internal Assessment Report  
Managing Environmental  
Resources**

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 National Courses verified:

## **Managing Environmental Resources: Higher, Intermediate 2, Intermediate 1**

Higher component Units of Managing Environmental Resources Course:

D312/12      Natural Resource Use  
D315/12      Investigating Ecosystems

Intermediate 2 component Units of Managing Environmental Resources Course:

D310/11      Ecosystems  
D312/11      Natural Resource Use

Intermediate 1 component Units of Managing Environmental Resources Course:

D309/10      Environmental Issues

## **General comments**

All centres provided evidence of a satisfactory standard.

Outcomes 1 and 2 were assessed using current SQA NAB materials in all the centres verified. Marking schemes were used effectively in most cases.

Outcome 3 evidence was submitted by one centre. It should be noted that, at all levels, candidates must pass Outcome 3 in one of the component Units before an overall pass can be awarded. The best Outcome 3 investigations are based on local issues or topics.

Marking was generally accurate and consistent to the level or standard of the Course followed. Mark schemes were provided and in many cases had been adapted to reflect current acceptable answers or local examples. Centres are encouraged to amend the mark scheme as relevant with up-to-date issues and developments in the environmental field and local examples.

One-third of the centres verified successfully used a robust internal verification process for all candidate work. A further third had verified a sample of candidates' responses often clarifying marks or picking up minor administration errors. The final third did not use any internal verification process.

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

All centres used up-to-date assessment materials and applied the mark schemes effectively.

## **Evidence Requirements**

Centres provided appropriate evidence material. One centre provided Outcome 3 investigations for verification.

Centres should provide evidence of passed and failed assessments where appropriate. Some centres had not provided all the candidates' submissions, particularly where an assessment had to be re-sat.

## **Administration of assessments**

All centres administered the assessments appropriately but some would benefit from the use of a robust internal verification process. This process identifies any marking inaccuracies and administration errors.

## **Areas of good practice**

- ◆ Internal verification was used effectively by some centres. In the examples of best practice, different coloured pens were used to identify individual markers.
- ◆ Mark schemes were amended by some centres to show additional answers that were acceptable, including current/local examples.
- ◆ It is generally clear from the scripts where marks have been allocated.
- ◆ Centres have successfully used Assessment Cover Sheets to show total marks and evidence of internal verification.
- ◆ One centre provided evidence of the Outcome 3 assessment showing the range of candidate work.

## **Specific areas for improvement**

- ◆ Centres are advised to amend the mark schemes with current examples and modified answers that are deemed acceptable. These amended mark schemes should be submitted with the material for verification.
- ◆ The Verification Sample Form had not been correctly completed in some cases. Some centres had used percentages rather than marks and failed to complete the NAB Reference number section.
- ◆ Centres are reminded that all evidence for the candidates selected should be submitted, including failed Outcomes and any re-assessments.
- ◆ In some centres there was no evidence of internal verification, which would identify discrepancies. A robust system of internal verification could have picked up any inconsistencies in marking, often resulting in additional marks on some scripts.
- ◆ Clearer indications of where each mark was awarded would assist both internal and external verification.