



**National Qualifications 2013
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 NQ Units verified:

Managing Environmental Resources: Higher, Intermediate 2, Intermediate 1

Ecosystems (D310) — this is a component Unit of Managing Environmental Resources Courses at Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2

Investigating Ecosystems (D315) — this is a component Unit of Managing Environmental Resources Courses at Higher

General comments

Most centres provided evidence of a satisfactory standard.

Outcomes 1 and 2 were assessed using current SQA NAB materials in all the centres verified.

Outcome 3 evidence material was submitted by one centre. This was generally of an acceptable standard, reflecting studies undertaken in the field/local area. It should be noted that at all levels a candidate must pass Outcome 3 in one of the component Units before an overall pass in the Course can be awarded.

Only one investigation is required for Outcome 3 for the Managing Environmental Resources Courses. In this situation, in the case of Intermediate 2, the investigation must be based on the Local Environment Unit. At other levels, it can be based on any of the component Units. Where candidates are studying one Unit only, an investigation appropriate to that Unit should be produced.

Marking was generally accurate and consistent using updated mark schemes. Most centres had made valuable additions and adaptations to the published scheme to reflect current environmental issues. Developments in the environmental field are changing at a rapid pace and the Unit assessments should reflect these changing aspects. Centres are therefore strongly encouraged to add to the mark scheme where relevant examples are acceptable, particularly from the local area of the centre.

There was a variation in the accuracy of completing the Verification Sample Form.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

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

Evidence Requirements

Most centres provided appropriate evidence material. Only one centre provided evidence of Outcome 3 assessment for the Unit submitted.

Centres should provide evidence of passed and failed assessments where available. This was not always provided by some centres.

Administration of assessments

All centres have administered the assessments appropriately but some would benefit from a more robust internal verification process to identify any inaccuracies in marking.

Areas of good practice

- ◆ Clear allocation of marks on papers
- ◆ Some centres used internal verification procedures effectively
- ◆ Mark schemes were annotated by some centres to reflect acceptance of valid additional answers
- ◆ Centres have used assessment cover sheets to show mark allocation and internal verification
- ◆ Provision of Outcome 3 evidence where appropriate to the component of assessment

Specific areas for improvement

- ◆ Centres are encouraged to complete the Verification Sample Form more carefully
- ◆ Internal verification would pick up inconsistencies; it is good practice for the assessor and Internal Verifier to use different coloured pens to indicate their mark allocation
- ◆ All evidence should be submitted including passed and failed Outcomes
- ◆ If there is insufficient evidence for a particular candidate, a substitute should be selected
- ◆ Outcome 3 evidence needs to be more robust particularly in the areas of Analysis and Conclusions
- ◆ Valid answers that are not on the mark scheme should be accepted but these alternative answers should be recorded on the mark scheme and submitted with the evidence