



**National Qualifications 2013
Internal Assessment Report
Psychology**

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:

F5B4 11 Psychology: Understanding the Individual
DF5L 12 Psychology: Investigating Behaviour
DF5L 11 Psychology: Investigating Behaviour
DF5L 10 Psychology: Investigating Behaviour
F5B5 12 Psychology: The Individual in the Social Context

General comments

Generally, centres have a clear understanding of the requirements in these Units. However, where a minority of centres struggled was in still allocating half marks (although this has been emphasised in all previous reports as not valid), and in not being clear where marks are gained (by indicating marks gained on script and totalling marks, clearly indicating pass for Unit).

There was an issue where one centre accepted an invalid design of a project where questionnaire material did not relate to the hypothesis but was marked correct. It is essential that centres ensure all staff involved are clear as to the relationship between task and hypothesis set.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Centres used the National Assessment Bank assessment instruments. All were using the appropriate Unit specifications.

Evidence Requirements

Almost all centres showed clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements. In a minority, marking was a little strict for Intermediate 2 level.

Administration of assessments

Clear, constructive feedback has been given to candidates, informing performance and progress. In most cases, a thorough internal verification procedure was evident with realistic assessment decisions being agreed between assessor and Internal Verifier.

A good standard of candidate work is evident.

Areas of good practice

Worthwhile, constructive feedback is being provided to individual candidates by both assessors and Internal Verifiers. In one centre, good practice was seen in involving candidates in this process, with a 'Learner Dialogue' section on the feedback sheet where they can reflect on their performance.

Specific areas for improvement

There was some evidence of slightly harsh marking. Although seeking detailed responses is good practice, beware of being too demanding for the level being assessed.

For the investigation in Unit FB5L, candidates (and the centre) should only be including blank copies of consent forms rather than signed forms, for reasons of confidentiality (ethical conduct).

It would be very valuable for verification purposes if marks on scripts could be totalled to distinctly show candidates' results. Although an explanation of placing of ticks for either KU or AE marks is given, it is still not straightforward at external verification to see how these add up. This is a point made each year in the internal assessment report.

Half marks should not be allocated.