



**National Qualifications 2014
Internal Assessment Report
Sociology**

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

National Courses

Sociology — Intermediate 2 and Higher

General comments

All centres demonstrated a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standard as evidenced by their assessment decisions.

In the majority of cases the standard of assessed work provided clear evidence of good standards of teaching and learning.

Generally, paperwork was clear and straightforward to follow, and to work through.

Overall, there was some evidence to suggest that the standard of work has improved on previous years.

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

All assessors were familiar with the Course Arrangements, the correct versions of Unit specifications, and instruments of assessment. Current SQA National Assessment Bank (NAB) materials were used and assessments were marked according to the clear marking instructions provided. This helps to ensure fairness, reliability and standards across the sector.

Evidence Requirements

There was evidence to suggest that centres had a firm understanding of the Evidence Requirements for the Course/Units verified.

Administration of assessments

The material provided suggested that all centres had carried out assessment in the appropriate manner. The allocation of clear and accurate marks, accompanied by constructive feedback characterised the majority of scripts. There was evidence of cross-marking and internal verification of candidates' evidence in centres, which helped to ensure standardisation.

Areas of good practice

A number of examples of good practice were identified, including:

- ◆ Good standards of documentation/administration
- ◆ Constructive feedback
- ◆ Evidence of cross-marking and internal verification

Specific areas for improvement

In a minority of centres, feedback could have been more consistent and detailed. It is important to provide and document feedback in the form of constructive comments highlighting both strengths and weaknesses. For verification purposes, it would have been useful if all centres had clearly marked 'Pass/Fail' on all of the candidate scripts along with the total mark allocated (preferably identifying KU and AE marks separately). It is recommended that scripts should be internally verified and evidence of this provided for external verification purposes.