



**National Qualifications 2013
Internal Assessment Report
Urdu**

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:

Urdu: Higher (Speaking Assessment)

General comments

This year five centres were selected for verification and a total of 10 candidates were verified. Overall, the candidates performed well and the centres showed a good understanding of the Course specifications and Arrangements documents, particularly centres that presented candidates in previous years. In most of the performances there was a greater degree of good spontaneous responses as a result of open-ended questions which lead to authentic dialogue. Most candidates were well prepared and performances were conducted well by the centres.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Most of the assessors are familiar with the Course Arrangements documents, Unit specifications and the instruments of assessments.

Evidence Requirements

Recorded Speaking performances are required to be submitted on CD and centres are aware of this. However, some centres still need to pay attention to the fact that Verification Sample Form VS00 has to be submitted with the Speaking Assessments. Centres will not be Accepted if this specific form is missing.

Administration of assessments

Most of the assessments were conducted according to the SQA guidelines with regard to time limit and covered at least two topics. The performances were firmly at Higher level.

Areas of good practice

Candidates had been encouraged to choose an appropriate topic from all three themes for Higher. Almost all the interlocutors conducted the test with professionalism and encouraged the candidates to do well by asking open-ended questions and allowing candidates enough time to respond. Another encouraging aspect of the assessment was that the candidate performances are, in general, improving every year.

Specific areas for improvement

All centres must ensure that they adhere to the Arrangements documents.

Candidates should not be over-prepared for the discussion element. Interlocutors should try to ensure that the exchange is as authentic as possible: in one centre the main topic was prolonged rather than the interlocutor introducing a new topic. In other centres, interlocutors asked questions where candidates had to repeat the same information that had already been mentioned in the presentation element.

Centres should ensure that both candidates and interlocutors are aware of the suggested time limit for each element of the Speaking assessment. Candidates gain very little benefit from a prolonged discussion or presentation. In some performances the presentation was too short because the candidates were interrupted very quickly by the interlocutor, with the result that the presentation was either too short or did not exist at all. Conversely, candidates cannot express themselves fully if the time limit is too short, that is, if they are interrupted by the interlocutor straight away.

It should be noted that centres are responsible for making sure that Arrangements documents are made available and the internal assessment criteria are followed while conducting the assessments. In one centre the interlocutor marked the assessment too generously.

Centres must submit the Verification Sample Form VS00 with the Speaking Assessments.

This year the quality of recording was good but in some instances the sound was hardly audible, being either too low or interrupted by other surrounding noises. Centres should ensure that all the tests are conducted in a suitable environment using viable equipment.