



**National Qualifications 2014
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 only one centre was verified for the Speaking assessment through postal verification. The verifier noted that overall the candidates performed well. Some candidates presented their topic in an excellent manner while others had a good spontaneous conversation with a sympathetic interlocutor.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The centre is familiar with the Unit specifications and the instruments of assessments.

Evidence Requirements

Speaking recording performances are required to be submitted on CDs and the centre was aware of the requirements. Centres are required to submit the breakdown of marks out of 25: Presentation out of 10 marks and Discussion out of 15 marks.

Administration of assessments

Most of the assessments were conducted according to SQA guidelines, eg followed the correct guideline for the time limit, covered at least two topics.

Areas of good practice

Generally, candidates were encouraged to choose a variety of topics covering all three themes for Higher: Lifestyle, Education and Work and The Wider World. The interlocutor conducted the test with great sympathy and encouraged the candidates to do their best by asking open-ended question and allowing enough time to respond.

Specific areas for improvement

It was noted that some candidates were over-prepared for the discussion element and instead of introducing a new topic by the interlocutor from the general discussion area, the main topic was prolonged too much. The interlocutor introduced the second topic right in the middle of the conversation by asking a question which confused the candidate and in some cases made it difficult to carry on the conversation confidently. At higher level, students are encouraged to prepare their talk for a chosen topic and the examiner should introduce an unseen topic without confusing or disrupting the candidates.

This year only one centre was verified. The verifier noted that the interlocutor marked the assessment too generously and the marking breakdown was not provided with the material. The centre was contacted to get the marking breakdown. It should be noted that centres are responsible for making sure that Arrangement documents are made available and the internal assessment criteria should be followed while conducting the assessments.

It is very important that centres submit the Verification Sample Form VS00 with the Speaking assessments as they would not be Accepted if the required form is missing or replaced.

It was noted that centres which represent the candidates outwith mainstream schools (eg after-school classes or mosque schools) particularly encounter problems, such as a lack of understating of the Arrangements documents and therefore grade related criteria are not adhered to.

This year the quality of recording was mostly good compared to previous years and there was no problem with audio quality.