

# NQ Verification 2014–15

## Key Messages Round 2

01

### Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2015

#### National Courses/Units verified:

H24C 74 People and Society Assignment (National 4) Added Value Unit

02

### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ For the National 4 Added Value assignment, centres had given candidates personalisation and choice in their topic and in their method and structure of presenting their information. This was good to see.
- ◆ Centres are making good use of the candidate instructions for the National 4 Added Value Unit to support candidates with planning and structuring their write-up. These instructions are available on SQA's secure website.
- ◆ Candidates find it easier to apply the skills of making a decision or comparing and contrasting (Assessment Standard 1.5) where they have a question within their topic or issue to answer instead of just a general topic or issue.
- ◆ Centres that provided their internal verification policy and checklists for the Unit assessments completed, allowed verifiers to check assessment approaches more easily.

#### Action points

It would be helpful for centres to encourage candidates to reference the two sources they have chosen to use in their write-up.

Candidates should be made aware that they must describe and briefly explain the topic or issue to pass Assessment Standard 1.4.

Be careful not to over-assess in the Added Value Unit by making candidates compare and contrast as well as make a decision for Assessment Standard 1.5.

It would be helpful for centres to advise candidates that they should not just 'copy and paste' information straight from their sources, including work in their jotter, but instead put it into their own words.

If you are unsure about internal verification procedures, the Internal Verification toolkit on the SQA website ([www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit](http://www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit)) gives meaningful guidance and references on how to complete it.

## Assessment judgements

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ Most centres were judging the evidence well according to the appropriate Assessment Standard.
- ◆ Marking where an Assessment Standard had been achieved on candidates' work allowed verifiers to see assessment judgements more easily.
- ◆ Cross-marking of candidates' work helped to ensure assessment judgement decisions were more reliable.

## Action points

It is important for candidates to briefly explain the topic or issue to pass Assessment Standard 1.4. Giving an opinion on a topic or issue does not necessarily mean that an explanation has been given by the candidate.

It would be helpful for centres to mark a 'D' or 'E' beside the tick on candidate work where description and explanation have been given to pass Assessment Standard 1.4.

03

## Section 3: General comments

The following comments are intended as a guide to centres on future practice.

Round 1 of verification is for Unit Assessments at National 3 and National 4 and Round 2 of verification is for the Added Value Unit.

There have been changes made recently to the Unit assessment support packs, so please check you are using the latest version for the 2015–16 session.