



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

H24C 74 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 allowed candidates personalisation and choice in their topic and in their method and structure of presenting their information, which was good to see.
- ◆ Centres are making good use of the candidate instructions for the National 4 added value unit to support candidates to plan and structure their write-up. These instructions are available on SQA's secure website.
- ◆ Candidates seem more able to apply the skills of making a decision or comparing and contrasting (assessment standard 1.5) where they have formed a question within their topic or issue rather than just a general topic or issue.

Action points:

- ◆ Centres should 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 in order to achieve assessment standard 1.4.

- ◆ Centres should be careful not to over-assess in the added value unit by asking candidates to compare and contrast as well as make a decision for assessment standard 1.5.
- ◆ Centres should 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.

Assessment judgements

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ Most centres are making assessment judgements in line with national standards.
- ◆ Marking where an assessment standard has been achieved on candidate evidence allows candidates and verifiers to identify assessment judgements more easily.
- ◆ Where a verbal discussion had taken place with a candidate to check their understanding of an assessment standard, an indication on the candidate's evidence of the questions that were used by the assessor as well as the answers given by the candidate, allowed the verification team to understand the assessment judgement that had been made.

Action points:

It would be helpful for candidates and verifiers, if centres indicated on the candidate's evidence where description and explanation has been given in relation to assessment standard 1.4. This could be done by simply using 'D' and 'E'.

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.

Please check you are using the latest version of the unit assessment support packages.

When using a unit assessment support package, centres should adapt the judging the evidence table to their topic/issue by giving suggested answers that they deem suitable of a pass.

The Internal Verification Toolkit on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit) provides useful guidance.