



NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Psychology
Verification event/visiting information	Verification event
Date published:	January 2014

National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

H262 75 Psychology: Social Behaviour

H260 75 Psychology: Research

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Evidence for verification was provided by some centres which demonstrated an innovative, personalised approach to assessment, eg academic posters. Candidate work here was of a high standard.

Assessment approaches must ensure that all Assessment Standards are met.

Candidates should not be over-assessed. There was a tendency towards this by centres who had allocated marks to assessments.

Knowledge and understanding and analysis and evaluation marks are not appropriate for the new National Courses because they are predominantly skills-based.

Having robust internal quality assurance and verification procedures in place throughout the assessment process will ensure that assessment approaches and assessment judgements are valid and reliable.

Assessment judgements

Assessors must ensure that command words are followed by candidates, eg 'explain' requires a different response from 'describe' which, in turn, requires a different response from 'identify'.

Centres must ensure that candidate responses are their own work. (See the 'Assessment conditions' section in the Unit assessment support packs, which states: '*Assessors must exercise their professional responsibility in ensuring that evidence submitted by a candidate is the candidate's own work.*')

For the Psychology: Social Behaviour Unit, the mandatory topic is 'conformity' — not 'conformity and obedience'. There was some evidence of candidates achieving marks for responding in terms of obedience theory and research.

03 Section 3: General comments

It is useful for centres to provide evidence of internal verification, eg cross-marking. If centres offering SQA qualifications have an effective internal quality assurance system, this ensures that all candidates are assessed accurately, fairly and consistently to national standards.

Using the SQA Unit assessment support pack ensures that centres provide a valid approach to assessment. If centres devise their own Unit assessments, these should be submitted to SQA for prior verification to ensure that all Assessment Standards are met.

If amendments are made to the assessment in the Unit assessment support packs, centres should use the packs as guidance and make the appropriate amendments to column 4 of the judging evidence table. It is recommended that such amendments are internally verified to ensure that all Assessment Standards are addressed.