



NQ Verification 2015/16

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Psychology
Verification event/visiting information	Postal
Date published:	June 2016

National courses/units verified:

There was only a limited selection in this round of verification, covering National 5 and Higher.

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Centres verified used SQA provided assessments from the unit assessment support packs (UASPs). All centres used package 1 (unit-by-unit approach).

While centres are free to make slight alterations to SQA's UASPs, it is advised that any changes should be consistent with the assessment standards to ensure validity of assessment is retained.

Assessment judgements

Centres are advised to adhere to the assessment standards while judging candidate evidence and to pay particular attention to the level of demand generated by different command words. This applies particularly in relation to the difference between 'describe' and 'explain'.

Centres are also advised that there is no requirement to give detailed descriptions or evaluations of research evidence in the Higher Psychology: Individual Behaviour unit.

Centres showed good practice when checking assessment judgements, eg cross-marking. In addition, the centres sampled demonstrated good practice by

the internal verifier, who sampled scripts in an agreed manner and recorded the details and decisions from this activity.

Further good practice was identifying where assessment standards were met on candidate scripts, as it provided very clear, supportive feedback for a candidate to measure their own progress.

03

Section 3: General comments

It is important that centre-devised assessment materials relate clearly to the assessment standards for each outcome. Prior verification of centre-devised assessment materials should ensure this and is recommended.

Centres should ensure that assessments devised internally address all the relevant assessment standards for the unit/outcome and give candidates full opportunity within the task to be able to demonstrate their performance against the standards.

Centres are reminded that candidate evidence should be viewed holistically in relation to assessment standards. Assessment approaches should enable candidates to achieve the minimum standard and as such there is no requirement for assigning marks or the use of time limits.

Annotating candidate evidence with an indication of where assessment standards had been met was extremely useful during the verification event.

Centres are required to submit an indication of the internal verification approaches adopted. Providing a clear context of the conditions of assessment and internal verification procedures is extremely helpful and supports verifiers when confirming assessment judgements. SQA's [Internal Verification Toolkit](#) provides advice on the development and maintenance of an effective internal quality assurance system.