



NQ Verification 2016–17

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2017

National Courses/Units verified:

H266 74 National 4 RMPS: Assignment (Added Value Unit)

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Most centres that were verified at the event were deemed to be either 'accepted' or 'accepted*'. Centres are to be commended on this.

The majority of centres had clearly worked with their candidates to ensure that the topic/issue for study was appropriate for research within the context of RMPS, however it should be noted that it may be more accessible for candidates if this is presented in the format of a question.

Several candidates had used the poster approach to present their evidence, reflecting personalisation and choice, while the majority of centres continue to use the traditional essay format.

Action points

There was no evidence provided that demonstrated the guidelines and support that centres had given candidates through the research process and presentation of their findings. While it is not a requirement to include this information, it would be helpful to the verifiers to understand how the candidates arrived at the final product submitted for verification.

Centres are reminded that during the research process evidence can be generated in a variety of ways. This evidence can also be included to support the material submitted for the candidate.

Assessment judgements

Most centres are continuing to clearly mark exactly where candidates had met particular assessment standards. Centres have to be commended on this as it is essential for the verification process. The basis on which assessment judgements have been made must be evident.

Many centres provided good feedback to candidates when they had not met the assessment standards and this clearly supported the candidates in the resubmission of their work. Clearly recorded written dialogue showed the process that had taken place.

On the material submitted by all centres there was clear evidence of cross-marking and a robust internal verification process being in place. However, in a small number of cases the centre's own documented procedures had not been followed.

Assessment standard 1.6 continues to be problematic for some centres. This assessment standard states that candidates have to 'present findings in response to the chosen topic or issue' and this does not necessarily mean that they have to provide a conclusion to achieve this standard. It is possible for candidates to achieve the required standard by the presentation of their work, showing clearly their skills, knowledge and understanding.

Action points

Centres are reminded that the purpose of the verification process is to review a centre's assessment and to determine whether the approach to assessment and the assessment judgements are sound. Verifiers can only decide if assessment judgements have been made reliably if the centre has clearly marked on the candidate materials where the assessment standards have been met.

Documenting discussion with candidates and internal assessors can be very useful if it is clearly linked to specific assessment standards in relation to candidates' work.

03

Section 3: General comments

Some centres encouraged their candidates to use the strengths and weakness structure when presenting their evidence. This approach is to be commended as it helps prepare candidates for progression within RMPS.

Centres should ensure that all SQA paperwork is carefully completed before submitting materials for verification. Incorrectly documenting evidence as interim or complete can confuse the verification process.

Assessment standards can be met in the research stage as well as the presentation of findings stage. If the candidate broadly meets the needs of the assessment standard there is no need for re-assessment.

Centres are also reminded that approaches have been developed to support assessment and re-assessment, and information on the suggested assessment approach for RMPS can be found in [NQ Next Steps — Guide to what this means for teachers and lecturers](#).

Centres and local authorities are reminded that they will find it very helpful to enlist the help of RMPS nominees in their area for support and guidance.