



# NQ Verification 2014–15

## Key Messages Round 2

01

### Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Modern Languages — Spanish
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2015

#### National Courses/Units verified:

H26V 74 National 4 Spanish: Added Value Unit

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### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

It is pleasing to report that the approaches to assessment used by centres selected for verification were 'accepted'. This demonstrates that centres have followed guidelines and made use of the feedback and support provided by SQA in publication updates, the Verification Key Messages and at events (for nominees and practitioners) during 2014–15. Centres are encouraged to continue to follow the SQA Added Value Unit template effectively.

Some centres used centre-devised or local authority-devised assessments to assess their candidates reflecting the approach set in the published Added Value Unit support pack. On the whole, the tasks were appropriate, although centres should ensure that the types of questions and length and level of complexity of texts reflect those exemplified in the Added Value Unit assessment support pack. Centres should ensure that the language used in texts is straightforward and that the questions are supportive and appropriate at National 4.

Some centres also used a translation of a scenario exemplified in the Unit assessment support pack.

In both types of approaches to assessment, centres must include the texts and a judging evidence table, adapted as appropriate.

In relation to Assessment Standards 1.3 and 1.4, many centres provided a detailed checklist. It is also useful for centres to consider using recordings since these can play an important role in discussion of standards in internal and external verification.

## Assessment judgements

It is also pleasing to report that all the assessment judgements made by assessors in centres were accepted as they were in line with national standards. This demonstrates that centres have successfully implemented guidelines and made use of the feedback and support provided by SQA in publication updates, the Verification Key Messages and at events (for nominees and practitioners) during 2014–15.

Many centres justified how they made their assessment judgements and this should be commended. This is good practice as it is very useful and appropriate for internal and external verification purposes.

Centres should merge in-house information on judging evidence with judging evidence tables to create one document to demonstrate how assessment judgements are made.

The judging evidence table in the Unit assessment support pack should be used as a guide: the answers listed in column 4 are only exemplification of how a candidate may address each Assessment Standard. It is recommended that centres populate the judging evidence table (column 4) with a range of other possible answers that have been accepted by the centre.

### Assessment Standards 1.3 and 1.4

Overall candidate performance was appropriate for this level and in some cases candidates went beyond what is expected at National 4.

If no audio recording is submitted, centres must submit a detailed checklist or commentary with **some** examples of what each candidate says referenced against each Assessment Standard for the Outcome.

It is good practice for centres to vary the questions and order of questions asked of candidates in the conversation. It is recommended that centres use a range of open-ended questions to allow candidates to meet Assessment Standard 1.4. This will allow candidates to demonstrate that they can handle straightforward language and use a reasonable range of vocabulary appropriate to National 4.

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## Section 3: General comments

Centres submitted well-organised samples for verification, which is to be commended. This makes the verification process easier and helps the verification team provide appropriate feedback to centres.

Centres should arrange candidates in alphabetical order on the Verification Sample Form. The order of the candidates' evidence must match the order on the Verification Sample Form.

### **Internal quality assurance and verification**

Centres are reminded that this can take several forms, including a document explaining the processes applied (eg cross-marking, blind marking), a note of collegiate discussion on the validity of any centre-devised approach to assessment, a note of outcomes agreed and reasons etc. It is useful for the purposes of external verification to see a clear indication on the candidate scripts or on the candidate assessment record that the work was internally verified and the judgements agreed.

Centres are reminded they can refer to [SQA's Internal Verification Toolkit](#).