



NQ Verification 2014–15 Key Messages Round 1

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Section 1: Verification group information

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

National Courses/Units verified:

H26S 73	National 3	Spanish: Understanding Language
H26T 73	National 3	Spanish: Using Language
H26S 74	National 4	Spanish: Understanding Language
H26T 74	National 4	Spanish: Using Language
H2SV 74	National 4	Spanish: Added Value Unit
H26S 75	National 5	Spanish: Understanding Language
H26T 75	National 5	Spanish: Using Language
H26S 76	New Higher	Spanish: Understanding Language

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Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The approaches to assessment of centres selected for verification were all 'Accepted'. The majority of centres sampled used the SQA Unit assessment support packs. Where this was not the case, centres used prior-verified materials for Unit assessments.

Where a centre translates an assessment approach task from a Unit assessment support pack from one language into another, the centre must ensure that the standards and level of difficulty are equal to the original text. The centre may need to adapt the translation to that effect.

When using Unit assessment support packs, centres are reminded that a more up-to-date version of the approach may be available online ([SQA Secure](#)).

It is encouraging to note that centres indicated clearly which Unit assessment support pack they used, eg Package 1, N5, Reading. It is recommended that one

copy of the judging evidence table, the texts (and transcripts for listening tasks) are also included for the whole sample. There is, however, no need to include one copy inside each candidate's evidence envelope.

Centres may wish to reformat the approach to assessment provided in the Unit assessment support packs by slightly amending the questions, texts or layout to suit their candidates' needs while maintaining the standard.

Where a candidate needs to be re-assessed in an Outcome (eg reading), only one piece of candidate evidence should be submitted for verification. Nominee verifiers do not require to verify the first assessment as well as the re-assessment.

In line with SQA verification guidance, if a centre is presenting three or more levels, the sample must be split across three levels only. For the purposes of verification, only three levels will be verified.

Assessment judgements

The majority of the assessment judgements made by assessors have been 'Accepted'. Where the assessment judgements for centres have been 'Accepted', centres provided evidence in the form of judging evidence tables or centre-devised documents which provided a note of acceptable answers. In addition, the majority of centres also provided evidence of how assessment judgements had been made in relation to the different Assessment Standards, eg 1.1 and 1.2 in reading.

Some centres noted each Assessment Standard next to each of the candidates' responses or on their scripts as 1.1, 1.2 etc... to evidence where the candidates had addressed these Assessment Standards. This is good practice as it is very useful for internal and external verification purposes. Centres should note that it is particularly helpful to nominee verifiers to have a candidate assessment record (provided in Unit assessment support pack) annotated with the reasoning behind decisions to pass or fail Assessment Standards and an Outcome.

Centres should supplement judging evidence tables in Unit assessment support packs to include a range of possible answers to demonstrate how assessment judgements are made for each Assessment Standard. Centres are advised to include all acceptable answers against the Assessment Standards in the one document (judging evidence table or equivalent) since this allows nominee verifiers to understand how assessment judgements have been made. For verification purposes, it is not useful to have a list of additional possible answers which do not relate to Assessment Standards.

The award of marks is not a feature of Unit assessments and there is therefore no 'pass mark'. The inclusion of 'marks out of' is not noted for verification purposes.

Centres should take a holistic and positive approach to marking candidate work. A candidate should be given credit for answers as long as the candidate meets

the Assessment Standards overall, regardless of whether they are necessarily in the correct place. For instance, if a candidate does not have the correct information in one question, but has it in another, they may still be able to demonstrate evidence of addressing an Assessment Standard.

For Assessment Standard 1.1 in Higher (reading), centres are advised to encourage candidates to provide an explanation for the overall purpose with reference to the text. This explanation should be in English. Quotes in the modern language do not necessarily allow candidates to demonstrate understanding of the overall purpose.

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Section 3: General comments

The majority of centres submitted very clear and well-organised packages for verification, which is to be commended. This facilitated the verification process and assisted in providing useful feedback to centres.

Only 12 candidates should be entered on the Verification Sample Form. If a candidate has assessments for the same Unit (eg a reading assessment and a listening assessment completing the Understanding Language Unit), then both may be submitted for verification. If a combined approach has been used, only one assessment per candidate should be included in the sample.

Centres are requested to complete the Candidate Evidence Flyleaf. It would be useful for the centre to indicate whether the centre agrees to give SQA permission to use candidate evidence for Understanding Standards materials.

The majority of centres included evidence of internal verification. Examples of good internal verification highlighted how some centres had quality assured both the approach to assessment and the reliability of the application of the judging evidence. Centres are reminded that all centres offering SQA qualifications must have an effective internal quality assurance system in place which ensures that all candidates are assessed accurately, fairly and consistently to national standards. There is further guidance in the Internal Verification Toolkit:

www.sqa.org.uk/ivtoolkit