



NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Message Reports

Verification group name:	Art and Design
Levels	N3 to N5
Date published:	July 2014

This Report combines all Verification Key Messages for the academic session 2013-14.

NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Art and Design
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting
Date published:	January 2014

National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

H202 73: National 3 Art and Design — Expressive Activity

H204 73: National 3 Art and Design — Design Activity

H202 74: National 4 Art and Design — Expressive Activity

H204 74: National 4 Art and Design — Design Activity

H202 75: National 5 Art and Design — Expressive Activity

H204 75: National 5 Art and Design — Design Activity

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Centres have been using the relevant Unit assessment support packs and adapting them as appropriate. These provide a framework for centres to structure their Expressive and Design Units. Assessor checklists from the Unit assessment support packs were being used effectively, with many centres adapting these to meet their own needs. Many checklists included an additional column for written feedback to candidates, which could also contribute to a record of internal verification.

The integration of art and design studies with practical work has been largely successful. However, a very small number of centres still see this as a separate and free-standing element within Units.

Overall, the study of artists and designers has enhanced practical work. The extent to which this is the case varies and centres have been creative when delivering Outcome 1 of Units.

At all levels, the variety of Expressive and Design Unit themes allowed candidates to produce work which was both personal and met the requirements for assessment. Most centres adapted themes used previously at Standard Grade or Intermediate levels.

Assessment judgements

Centres have been making assessment judgements largely in line with National Standards and successfully differentiating between levels. The majority of work presented for verification was at an early stage, with verifiers able to offer guidance on both content and standards.

Most centres had clearly identified procedures for internal quality assurance, with some departments being particularly thorough in their use of cross-marking. In many cases, single-teacher departments had arrangements in place for collaborating with nearby centres.

Centres should note that artwork submitted for verification should be clearly identified with an indication of which Assessment Standard(s) it was assessed against.

03

Section 3: General comments

There have been very few issues raised during round 1 of visiting verification. Centres have very effectively assessed and recorded candidates' attainment within the early stages of Units. Many centres have included written feedback to candidates to motivate them and to monitor their progress.

The points listed below, however, are worth noting:

- ◆ A number of centres were producing work which was more elaborate than expected for Units because they were using a very similar approach to that previously used for Intermediate Courses. The new National Qualifications have a slightly different emphasis, and where a 'sketchbook' approach was used, centres felt that candidates were more involved in the investigation and development of themes and ideas.
- ◆ In the Verification Sample Form the Pass/Fail column is not an indication of whether a candidate has passed the whole Unit. It is there for the Assessor to indicate that, considering only the evidence produced at that stage (ie at the time of verification), they are passing or failing the candidate.

- ◆ All work being verified at a particular level must be from the same Unit, either all Expressive or all Design. However different Units can be verified at different levels, eg National 4 all Expressive and National 5 all Design, or vice versa.



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Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Art & Design
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting
Date published:	March 2014

National Courses/Units verified:

H202 73: N3 Art & Design — Expressive Activity

H204 73: N3 Art & Design — Design Activity

H202 74: N4 Art & Design — Expressive Activity

H204 74: N4 Art & Design — Design Activity

H202 75: N5 Art & Design — Expressive Activity

H204 75: N5 Art & Design — Design Activity

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Centres have been using the relevant Unit assessment support packs and adapting them as appropriate. During Round 2, much of the evidence produced was at an advanced stage and in a number of cases was complete.

A large number of centres had started delivering Units over a year ago and in many such instances candidates had produced evidence over and above the requirements for a pass. This in itself is not an issue but where centres felt that they were running out of time for completing Added Value work at National 4 and Course Assessment work at National 5, then this is an area which could be addressed for subsequent delivery.

Many centres were still uncertain as to where Unit work ends and Course assessment begins. Verifiers report that when this was explained during visits centres appreciated the feedback and felt more confident in delivering the elements of the Course effectively.

There were many centres imaginatively integrating Art Studies with practical work. Candidates were able to apply aspects of their learning within Outcome 1 to their own practice within Outcome 2 and this, to varying extents, enriched the learning within Units. A wide range of approaches to producing evidence for the Art Studies were seen, including using A5 notebooks, single sides of A2 paper, word-processing/digital files, and written work integrated with practical work in sketchbooks.

In many cases candidates had personalised and decorated their studies, often within sketchbooks, creatively linking them to their theme or echoing the work of the artists they were studying.

Assessment judgements

Centres are largely making assessment judgements in line with national standards and successfully differentiating between levels.

A number of centres have found that taking an ongoing approach to the identification and assessment of work, and indicating the relevant Assessment Standards, has been effective. This approach allows continual monitoring of each candidate's progress and naturally produces the evidence required for verification.

Some centres had very elaborate processes for recording assessment, giving feedback to learners and conducting internal verification, while others had a minimal but appropriate approach to this process. Centres are encouraged to work in whatever way most suits their situation — so long as the required assessment and recording is taking place.

Cross-marking is being undertaken on a regular basis by almost all centres. Again, this ranged from relatively informal approaches to quite elaborate procedures. An increasing number of centres work collaboratively with nearby centres to support awareness and application of national standards. Much of this cross-marking and collaborative assessment of folios focused particularly on the threshold of National 4 and National 5 and then on the cut-off points for estimating levels of A to D at National 5.

Section 3: General comments

The majority of centres have been very well prepared for verification visits and this has allowed the process to run effectively and efficiently. In most cases any omissions, or misunderstandings, have been addressed during the visit and verification has progressed.

Investigation and initial development are requirements of Units and will have been assessed by centres as pass/fail and are not a requirement of Course Assessment.

Course assessment involves the further development of one idea from the Unit and the production of a final piece. Relevant work from the Units may accompany the Course assessment to provide context for the further development, but will not contribute to the candidate's mark.

Please read [Common questions about National 3, National 4 and National 5 Art & Design on SQA's website](#) for a fuller explanation of this.

If, for Outcome 1, centres use class discussion to meet aspects of the Assessment Standards then there must be evidence that each individual candidate's contribution was relevant. This evidence would have to be available for verification — to say that a candidate 'discussed the work of an artist' during a class discussion is insufficient evidence to meet the Assessment Standards for Outcome 1.

Further development work and/or final pieces should not be included in evidence submitted for verification, nor should practice questions for the National 5 question paper.

Feedback from verifiers suggests that centres are becoming clearer on the details of Unit requirements, and how this relates to Course assessment, as a result of delivering the Units. The most common view expressed is that centres realise that they have spent more time than was necessary on Unit requirements and now feel more confident in their delivery next year.

NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Messages Round 3

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Art & Design
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting
Date published:	June 2014

National Courses/Units verified:

H206 74: National 4 Art & Design Practical Activity (Added Value Unit)

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

In Round 3, verification focused on the Added Value Unit only. In some centres the entire Unit had been completed but for most the evidence was incomplete. This is not an issue for verification. Centres should be commended for their engagement in internal verification processes and recording procedures for assessment.

Assessment approaches

For both Outcome 1: Expressive and Outcome 2: Design, there was a wide range of themes similar to those evident in Standard Grade and Intermediate 1. Standards were also similar, as were choices of media.

With there being no restriction on format, some centres produced work on a larger scale than previously.

In most centres the development and planning for the final artwork was very thorough with candidates producing much more than the minimum requirement. For the N4 Added Value Unit, candidates are required to plan their final artwork — this is not expected to be as thorough as the ‘further development’ work required at N5.

Expressive final pieces were, for the most part, produced as A2 paintings. This is perfectly acceptable as there is no limit to size.

There was a wide range of approaches to providing evidence of reflection. It is perfectly acceptable to use centre-generated pro-forma for this, as long as candidates express their own opinions and understanding of their work. It is important to be aware that evidence of reflection is required for both the Expressive and the Design Outcomes.

Assessment judgements

It is clear that almost all centres are aware of the appropriate standards for a pass at N4. There was some uncertainty as to what was a borderline N4/N5 but assessment judgements were accurate and supported by appropriate evidence and thorough records of assessment.

Centres had very thorough measures in place for documenting evidence for the Assessment Standards and generally understood the requirements.

Where there was an effective internal verification process, centres were confident in assessing candidates at the appropriate level. Good practice was identified in the use of procedures which provided evidence of feedback to candidates. It is important that candidates have a way of monitoring their progress and identifying next steps. Most centres used or adapted the Candidate Assessment Record and Class Summary Record published in the Unit assessment support pack.

There was a wide range of internal verification approaches. In most cases, these were highly effective. Some centres had very detailed procedures while others were more basic — the important point here is that they are fit for purpose and support candidates in their learning.

03

Section 3: General comments

The requirements of this Unit are straightforward with the focus being on producing an Expressive final piece and a Design final piece. Some centres produced much more evidence of planning and developing than is required within a Unit pass — it is important that centres are confident in identifying the standards for a Unit pass and allow appropriate time to complete final pieces.

Most of the work produced for the Added Value Unit was comfortably beyond that required for a pass with many candidates working beyond N4. In a number of centres the reason for not presenting these candidates at N5 was to do with concerns over attainment in the written exam. It is important to remember that candidates can attain Unit passes at N5 and complete the N4 Added Value Unit for an overall N4 Course Award — they will be credited for the N5 Unit passes.

The N4 Added Value Unit is a single Unit with two Outcomes. Candidates will have completed the N4 Expressive Unit and the N4 Design Unit but the evidence produced should not be included with the N4 Added Value Unit evidence.

The Unit does not have to be completed at the time of verification, although in most cases it was.

The N4 Added Value Unit is assessed as Pass/Fail by centres.

The N4 Expressive Unit, N4 Design Unit and N4 Added Value Unit are separate Units. Although, in practice, the added value evidence is a progression of Unit work, for verification purposes each Unit is separate.