



NQ verification 2022–23 round 1

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	English and Communication
Verification activity:	Event
Date published:	April 2023

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H2WT 73	National 3	English: Understanding Language
H2WV 73	National 3	English: Producing Language
H23W 73	National 3	Literacy
H23H 74	National 4	English: Analysis and Evaluation
H23T 74	National 4	English: Creation and Production
H23W 74	National 4	Literacy

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

English: Understanding Language (National 3)

English: Analysis and Evaluation (National 4)

Literacy (National 3 and National 4): reading and listening

Most centres continue to make effective use of SQA unit assessment support packs to assess reading and listening using current materials from SQA's secure website.

There were some effective centre-devised assessments for reading and listening related to the wider context of learning and teaching.

Some centre-devised materials did not have sufficient demand for assessment standards 1.1 and 2.1, where questions asked the candidates to retrieve information and not to answer in their own words to show their understanding.

Similarly, some centre-devised materials did not offer candidates the opportunity to achieve assessment standards 1.2 and 2.2 as candidates did not have the opportunity to select and comment on at least two examples of language.

Note: SQA offers a free [prior verification service](#) to centres who devise their own assessments. This gives the centre confidence that their assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards.

English: Producing Language (National 3)
English: Creation and Production (National 4)
Literacy (National 3 and National 4): writing

At both levels, there were some very effective centre-devised assessments that allowed candidates personalisation and choice of both topic and genre for writing.

There was occasional use of an outdated writing assessment task that still included assessment standard 1.3, which was removed from the unit in 2017–18.

Assessment judgements

English: Understanding Language (National 3)
English: Analysis and Evaluation (National 4)
Literacy (National 3 and National 4): reading and listening

Most centres' judgements were valid, reliable and in line with national standards. Most centres clearly indicated on candidate scripts where assessment standards were evidenced and provided detailed assessment commentaries as part of their internal verification processes.

There were some instances where candidates were incorrectly judged to have met assessment standards 1.2 and 2.2, even though they had not successfully selected and commented on at least two features of language.

While it is good practice to revisit answers with candidates to allow them opportunities to develop their answers, detail needs to be provided of any oral response from the candidate.

English: Producing Language (National 3)
English: Creation and Production (National 4)
Literacy (National 3 and National 4): writing

Most centres provided clear detail in their submitted evidence to indicate where and how candidates met the assessment standards for writing.

There were occasions when judgements were too severe. This was often where centres had amended their internal judging evidence tables to include additional criteria that was not required.

Section 3: general comments

Most centres indicated how their internal verification was carried out on candidate scripts and/or additional documentation. As a result, most centres' assessment judgements were able to be easily verified.

Not all centres provided an overview of their internal verification procedures, and it was not possible to comment on its effectiveness. However, there were submissions with very clear presentation and annotation of candidate scripts by individual assessors, which supported the process of arriving at and confirming assessment judgements.

Note: centres must ensure that they are using the most up-to-date assessment materials. When devising their own summative assessments, centres must ensure that all assessment standards can be fully met by candidates. Centres should make use of SQA's free [prior verification service](#).