



NQ Verification 2017–18 Key Messages Round 2

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Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Chinese Languages
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2018

National courses/units verified:

C845 National 5	Mandarin Simplified Performance — talking
C846 National 5	Mandarin Traditional Performance — talking
C745 Higher	Mandarin Simplified Performance — talking

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Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The verification team for Chinese is delighted to report that the approaches used by all the centres selected for verification have been ‘Accepted’ or ‘Accepted with Recommendations’.

Overall, the approaches to assessment are valid and accepted.

Centres used a range of SQA course assessment tasks for the Performance — talking to assess candidates at National 5 and Higher level appropriately.

In all cases, the assessors asked a good range of open-ended questions. The conversations between candidates and assessors covered information in different contexts. The assessors were very supportive and encouraging interlocutors. This is to be commended.

Centres are, however, advised to pay more attention to the following aspects:

- ◆ In the choices of topics within the Performance — talking, centres should consider incorporating more personalisation.
- ◆ Conversations are of an interactive nature and should provide good examples of a spontaneous dialogue. Centres should guard against excessive preparation of questions.

Assessment judgements

We are very pleased to report that the assessment judgements made by assessors in all centres have been 'Accepted' or 'Accepted with Recommendations'. The overall standard of candidate performance was very high.

Marks awarded by centres were in line with national standards, and were reliable and accepted.

Assessors made use of the SQA marking instructions to support the marks awarded to each candidate. However, centres are advised to pay more attention to the following:

- ◆ All centres selected for external verification should include in the record of marks awarded a breakdown of marks for presentation, conversation, and the ability to sustain the conversation.
- ◆ Centres could provide detailed commentary against the marks awarded for each section of the Performance — talking. For the purpose of external verification, it was useful where a particular centre explained why they opted for one pegged mark over another for each section of the performance.
- ◆ The conversation section of the Performance — talking should last for an appropriate length of time at National 5 and Higher, so that candidates can demonstrate their ability to cope with the demands of the performance at relevant levels. The timings stated in the SQA coursework assessment task Performance — talking (as set out in the National 5 and Higher Modern Languages Course Specification) give an indication of how long each section is expected to be.

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Section 3: General comments

Most centres selected for external verification submitted adequate evidence at relevant levels. This is to be commended.

For the purposes of verification, centres are advised to pay attention to the following:

- ◆ Centres should include CDs of audible performance recordings in submitted candidate evidence.

- ◆ Centres should provide good evidence of effective internal verification, and are recommended to refer to the [Internal Verification Toolkit](#).
- ◆ Centres should ensure that the Candidate Evidence Flyleafs are appropriately completed, including the signature and date.