NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 1

01 Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Chinese (Mandarin Simplified & Cantonese)
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

H229 74 National 4 Mandarin (Simplified): Understanding Language
H229 76 Higher   Mandarin (Simplified): Understanding Language
H20Y 76 Higher   Cantonese: Understanding Language

02 Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The approaches to assessment used by all centres that were selected for verification were 'Accepted'. This demonstrates that centres have used guidelines and made use of the feedback and support provided by SQA in publication updates, the Key Messages reports and at events (for nominees and practitioners) in 2014 and in 2015.

Points to note:

♦ Most centres have used the SQA Unit assessment support packages or slightly adapted the questions of the packages to assess candidates at different levels.

♦ Centres have made good use of the judging evidence tables of the Unit assessment support packages in making assessment judgements. Most centres used a candidate assessment record for each candidate to log assessment details. This is to be commended.

♦ Centres have used formative approaches used in delivering assessment. Where a centre wishes to provide oral feedback/discussion between assessor

and candidate as evidence of candidate performance, it is important to note that detailed information should be included on the candidate assessment record.

♦ Centres are encouraged to use a variety of assessment materials to suit the needs of different candidates. However, if a centre adapts any SQA Unit assessment package, they should not use stipulations within questions such as 'mention two pieces of information', as these may restrict the scope of candidate answers.

♦ Centres should complete the candidate evidence flyleaf accurately and arrange candidate evidence packets in alphabetical order.

Assessment judgements

It is reassuring to report that the assessment judgements made by assessors in all centres have been 'Accepted', as they were in line with national standards. Although the verification team provided guidance to centres on some minor areas, the team was happy to accept centre judgements.

Points to note:

♦ Centres have referenced the Outcomes and Assessment Standards effectively in order to justify how the assessment judgements were made.

♦ Most centres have provided detailed assessor commentary, which is very helpful to external verifiers.

♦ Centres are advised to note correct answers on candidates' scripts, which is beneficial both to candidates and verifiers.

03 ▸ Section 3: General comments

The verification team was very happy to see colour-coding of cross-marking comments from centres, which demonstrated a clear internal verification process.

To complete the candidate evidence flyleaf, centres are advised to follow the guidance below.

Points to note:

♦ 'Complete' when both elements for one Unit are included, eg when both reading and listening for the Understanding Language Unit are submitted. Note that 'Complete' does not necessarily mean 'Final'; a candidate could be re-assessed at a later stage if not already done at that level.

♦ 'Interim' when a single element from a Unit is included; eg only the reading element of the Understanding Language Unit.