



NQ Verification 2016–17

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Computing Science
Verification event/visiting information	Event/visiting
Date published:	March 2017

National Courses/Units verified:

H223 77	AH	Software Design and Development
H223 76	Higher	Software Design and Development
H223 75	National 5	Software Design and Development
H226 74	National 4	Information Systems Design & Development
H21x 73	National 3	Building Digital Solutions

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Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

All centres used SQA unit assessment support packs using unit-by-unit approaches.

Centres should ensure that they are using the most recent unit assessment support packs and the appropriate evidence requirements. These are available from the SQA secure site.

Centres should note that as from August 2016 thresholds apply to the number of assessment standards required to achieve each unit. These can be found in [Computing Science: Understanding the next steps for session 2016–17](#).

The prior verification service is available free of charge and full details (along with appropriate forms for submission) can be found on our [NQ prior verification web page](#).

Assessment judgements

The vast majority of centres were judging the evidence according to the appropriate assessment standard.

Many centres are using the good practice of recording on the candidate evidence to show where the assessment standard has been achieved.

National 5 Software Design and Development

Assessors should note that candidates should ensure that they have screenshots to evidence their test table results.

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Section 3: General comments

The number of centres verified was very small.

If a candidate doesn't meet the standard required for an assessment standard then it is acceptable for an assessor to return the work to the candidate, without any further support, and ask the candidate if they could add some additional information to the answer that they have provided.

If a candidate cannot achieve an assessment standard then a period of consolidation and remediation should take place before the candidate is given another opportunity to be re-assessed on that assessment standard using a different assessment instrument.

Centres should note that there will still be the requirement for candidates to be given the opportunity to meet all assessment standards. The thresholds have been put in place to reduce the volume of re-assessment where that is required.

Evidence of internal verification must be provided, as should a detailed description of how this has been carried out by the centre. Cross-marking should be clearly shown in a different colour to the original marking, as should the signature of the cross-marker.

There is clear guidance on SQA's website regarding internal verification. See: [Internal Verification: A Guide for Centres offering SQA Qualifications](#).