NQ Verification 2017–18
Key Messages Round 2

01 ▶ Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Design and Manufacture
Verification event/visiting information	Event/visiting
Date published:	June 2018

National Courses/Units verified:

C719 77 Advanced Higher Project (Course Assessment Task)
C719 76 Higher Assignment (Course Assessment Task)
C819 75 National 5 Assignment — practical (Course Assessment Task)
H22W 74 National 4 Assignment (Added Value Unit)

02 ▶ Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Almost all centres used tasks provided by SQA.

National 5

One centre used the old task. Tasks are now issued annually by SQA and centres should check that they are using the most up to date documents before candidates start the task.

Assessment judgements

A large majority of centres made assessment judgements which were in line with the national standard for National 5.

The majority of centres made assessment judgements which were in line with the national standard for National 4, Higher and Advanced Higher.

03 Section 3: General comments

National 4

Verification was carried out at a central event.

Centres should note that there is no 'range' in the bands, eg for *exploring and refining ideas* only 0, 3, 6 or 9 marks may be awarded.

Centres should make use of the full range of marks, including 0 where the evidence does not meet the description in the first band.

National 5

Verification was carried out by visiting verifiers. A large majority of centres made reliable judgements in line with national standards. However, a significant number of centres were lenient in their judgements. Where this was the case, it was generally due to the proposal developed by the candidate not allowing them to generate a high level of practical skills. This was particularly true for *measuring and marking out, using machine and hand tools and assembling components*.

Higher

Verification was carried out by visiting verifiers. The majority of centres made reliable judgements. However, a significant number of centres were lenient in their judgements. The major issue was that a number of candidates carried out very little exploration or refinement, simply making very minor changes to one of their initial ideas. This impacted on marks for sections 2–6.

The Design Information Record (DIR) should be completed by candidates before they undertake the task. The information on the DIR can be used to generate a specification that provides much of the direction for the exploration and refinement of the proposal.

The following points should be noted:

Section 1: The marks awarded for *generating ideas* were generally in line with the national standard. A few centres were lenient in their judgements, awarding marks in the top band when there was very little evidence to support this at Higher level. Marks are awarded for the range, creativity and diversity of ideas not the quality — reference should be made to the marking instructions.

Section 2: A significant number of centres awarded marks that were lenient for *exploring and refining ideas*. Marks were often awarded even although the design proposal was virtually the same as an initial idea. Marks were often awarded for superficial development, eg where there was a lot of repetition or lack of detail of component parts.

Section 3: The marks awarded for *applying graphic techniques* were generally in line with the national standard. A few centres were severe with their judgements,

deducting marks for minor flaws in a graphic even although the body of work demonstrated very good application of graphic skills.

Section 4: The marks awarded for *applying modelling techniques* were generally in line with the national standard. A few centres were very lenient in their judgements, simply awarding marks for models that had been produced but had not been used to develop the proposal. Marks are not awarded for the quality or presence of models, but for how the candidate has applied them to develop their solution.

Section 5: A number of centres awarded marks that were lenient for *applying knowledge and understanding of materials and processes*. Marks were often awarded even although the design proposal was virtually the same as an initial idea. Marks were often awarded for listing details of materials or processes. Marks are only awarded for the use of the knowledge in developing the proposal.

Section 6: A significant number of centres awarded marks that were lenient for *applying knowledge and understanding of design issues*. Marks were often awarded even although the design proposal was virtually the same as an initial idea. Marks were often awarded for listing details of design issues. Marks are only awarded for the use of the knowledge in developing the proposal.

Advanced Higher

Verification was carried out by visiting verifiers. The majority of centres made reliable judgements. However, a number of centres were lenient in their judgements. Marks for *generating and developing ideas towards a design proposal* were often lenient with very little evidence of any exploration or refinement of initial idea. This impacted negatively on the marks in the other sections as there was limited opportunity to display application of skills or knowledge and understanding.

General points

There was clear evidence of internal verification procedures in most centres. However, the following points should be noted:

♦ Checking of arithmetic should be part of the internal verification process.
♦ The mark agreed by the internal assessor and internal verifier for each section should be clearly indicated.
♦ The agreed mark should be arrived at through discussion and reference to the band descriptors. The mark should not be an average or the highest so that the candidate 'gets the benefit of the doubt'. The final mark agreed between the assessor and internal verifier must be clear.
♦ Some centres had used other centres for internal verification. Although this is a sound approach, assessment judgements must always be benchmarked against the SQA exemplars using the detailed marking instructions.