



NQ Verification 2017–18

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Environmental Science
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	May 2018

National Courses/Units verified:

H24T 74 National 4 Environmental Science: Assignment (Added Value Unit)

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

All centres verified at this event had correctly used the updated mark scheme for the added value unit, and had correctly applied the 7 out of 14 mark cut-off for a candidate to be awarded a pass.

Assessment judgements

At National 4 level, candidates must process at least 90% of the data correctly. If the investigation has both a calculation and a graph, 90% of the total of these (calculations and points on the graph) must be correct. Centres are encouraged to select projects that do not entail an excessive amount of processing of data for a National 4 added value unit.

Centres are reminded that the conclusion should be a conclusion of the findings of the investigation, and must be backed up by the evidence in the investigation. Some candidates had made a conclusion that was not justified from the evidence supplied and were incorrectly awarded a mark.

03

Section 3: General comments

Generally, internal verification was good. Many centres showed a high level of annotation showing that internal verification was rigorous. However, where the internal verifier and the initial assessor do not agree, it is essential that it is clear

what the final decision is. It is essential that both the initial assessor and the internal verifier are aware of the level that is expected for the National 4 added value unit qualification.

Most centres had used a report approach for the added value unit. However, there were alternative approaches used, such as conference posters, which are a very effective method to report the findings of the candidate's investigation.

Some centres were using a practical assessment that required the candidates to perform some complex calculations. Centres should make sure that the assessments they are using are suitable for National 4 level candidates.

When centres are dual teaching both National 4 and National 5 levels, centres should ensure that the investigation given to the National 4 candidates is suitable for a National 4 added value unit, and that the candidates have the opportunity to access all of the marks. Some centres had chosen investigations where it would be very difficult for the National 4 candidates to access all the 14 marks available.

Referencing was generally good, although some candidates did this poorly. Centres are reminded that when a practical experiment is performed, candidates must reference it with the title and aim of the experiment. Centres are also reminded that for the National 4 added value unit the references do not have to be at the end of the report, and also that the references do not have to be the main sources used for the investigation, but can be any sources used to gather information.

Most centres had made it very clear where marks were awarded, and some centres had produced a marking template where the reason the mark was awarded was very clearly defined. This is excellent practice and is to be encouraged.

The majority of candidates verified had successfully passed the added value unit.