Qualification Verification Summary Report

NQ Verification 2018–19

01 ▶ Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Geography
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2019

National Units verified:

Round 1

H27G 73	National 3	Physical Environments
H27J 73	National 3	Human Environments
H27J 73	National 3	Global Issues
H27G 74	National 4	Physical Environments
H27H 74	National 4	Human Environments
H27J 74	National 4	Global Issues
H27K 74	National 4	Geography Assignment — added value unit
H7VJ 77	Advanced Higher	Geographical Skills
H7VK 77	Advanced Higher	Geographical Issues

Round 2

H27K 74	National 4	Geography Assignment — added value unit
H27G 75	National 5	Physical Environments
H27H 75	National 5	Human Environments
H27J 75	National 5	Global Issues
H27G 76	Higher	Physical Environments
H27J 76	Higher	Global Issues
H7VJ 77	Advanced Higher	Geographical Skills
H7VK 77	Advanced Higher	Geographical Issues

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Good practice

In relation to assessment approaches, the following examples of good practice were observed during verification:

♦ Most centres used unit assessment support packs and current prior verified assessments.
♦ Submissions included separate unit approaches, combined approaches and portfolio approaches.
♦ Submissions included interim and complete unit evidence.
♦ Assessments included written test submissions, PowerPoint presentations and posters.
♦ There was evidence of personalisation and choice in the National 4 Geography Assignment — added value unit and the National 5 Human Environments unit.

Areas for consideration

Centres are advised to consider the following:

♦ From the start of session 2016–17, centres had to assess candidates against the revised outcomes and assessment standards. This includes: making sure that the unit assessment support packs (UASPs) used are the current ones and making sure that any prior verified assessments are still current and available on the SQA website. Centres should also check that any assessments they have had prior verified are still valid.
♦ When adapting UASPs and prior verified assessments, centres must ensure that the integrity of the assessment standard is maintained by ensuring the use of the correct command word (eg describe/explain) and using sources appropriate to the level being assessed.
♦ When adapting UASPs for a different level, centres should ensure that the command words are appropriate to the level.
♦ When centres devise their own assessment tasks, they must include the assessment task and the JET, including the 'possible responses' for verification.
♦ It would be helpful for assessors and for verification if, in the assessment tasks, the questions always included the assessment standard (eg 1.1, 1.2, etc). It was noted that this has improved significantly this year.

Assessment judgements

Good practice

In relation to assessment judgements, the following examples of good practice were observed during verification:

♦ Most assessment judgements were in line with national standards.

♦ Many centres included detailed and helpful comments about assessment judgements.

♦ Some centres indicated on candidate scripts where assessment standards were overtaken — the use of 1.1, 1.2, etc, and the use of 'd' for description and 'e' for explanation provided clarity.

♦ Many centres included a summary grid to indicate which assessment standards had been overtaken by each candidate.

♦ It was helpful for verification when ticks were placed at the place on the candidate script where an assessment standard is overtaken.

♦ Many centres used the candidate assessment record effectively and included detailed and helpful comments to give reasons for assessment judgements. These were also used to show internal verification and cross marking.

Areas for consideration

Centres are advised to consider the following:

♦ Each assessment standard needs to be assessed once only.

♦ Centres are only required to submit evidence for one unit at each level. One unit only will be verified for each candidate at the verification event.

♦ Where candidate evidence has been generated orally/via presentations, etc it is helpful for verification if assessors include any notes/prompts made by the candidate. A note of what the candidate said to overtake each assessment standard should be included so that verification can go ahead.

♦ It is helpful if assessors indicate where the candidate has overtaken an assessment standard across the entirety of the candidate's submission and not just at the first applicable comment.

Section 3: General comments

Most centres were 'Accepted'/'Accepted*' for verification.

Many centres had clear internal verification policies to show how quality assurance ensures national standards had been applied.

Quality assurance templates were devised by some centres to give a clear and staged protocol for quality assurance.

The Verification Sample Form was completed appropriately by most centres.

Centres should ensure that the Pass/Fail result on the Verification Sample Form matches the results written by assessors on the candidate evidence.

Centres should only submit the levels requested by SQA.

Centres should include evidence of internal verification processes along with the candidate evidence.

The reasons for 'Not Accepted' outcomes were as follows:

♦ National 4 — Physical Environments — using an 'old' UASP assessment item which did not cover all the current assessment standards.

♦ Using an 'old' prior verified assessment which does not meet all of the current assessment standards and is no longer on the SQA website.

♦ A centre devised assessment did not allow candidates to overtake all the assessment standards stated by the centre.

♦ Assessment judgements resulting in candidates being passed and failed inappropriately. For example, in the Advanced Higher Geographical Skills, candidates were passed by the centre but did not refer to their sampling methodology for assessment standard 1.2. For assessment standard 4.1, maps produced by candidates did not include a title, scale, etc but were passed by the centre.