



NQ Verification 2017–18

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Geography
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2018

National Courses/Units verified:

Unit code	Level	Unit title
H7VJ	Advanced Higher	Geographical Skills
H27G	Higher	Physical Environments
H27H	Higher	Human Environments
H27J	Higher	Global Issues
H27G	SCQF level 5	Physical Environments
H27J	SCQF level 5	Global Issues
H27G	National 4	Physical Environments
H6N9	National 4	Physical Environments in a Scottish Context
H27H	National 4	Human Environments
H27J	National 4	Global Issues
H27K	National 4	Added Value Unit
H27G	National 3	Physical Environments
H27J	National 3	Global Issues

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Good practice

The following examples of good practice in relation to assessment approaches were observed during round 1 of verification:

- ◆ Most centres used unit assessment support packs and current prior verified assessments.
- ◆ Submissions included separate unit approaches.

- ◆ Submissions included interim and complete unit evidence.
- ◆ Assessments included written test submissions, posters and leaflets.

Areas for consideration

Centres are advised to consider the following:

- ◆ From the start of session 2016–17 centres have had to assess candidates against the revised outcomes and assessment standards. This includes making sure that any prior verified assessments are still current and available on SQA's website.
- ◆ When adapting unit assessment support packs and prior verified assessments, centres must ensure that the integrity of the assessment standards are maintained by ensuring the use of the correct command word (eg explain) and using appropriate sources at the appropriate level.
- ◆ When centres devise their own assessment tasks, they must include the assessment task and the 'possible responses' for verification.
- ◆ When centres are devising their own assessments, tasks should not be overly complicated. The process should be as straightforward as possible for candidates.
- ◆ It would be helpful in the assessment tasks if the questions included a reference to the assessment standard being assessed (eg 1.1, 1.2).

Assessment judgements

Good practice

The following examples of good practice in relation to assessment judgements were observed during round 1 of verification:

- ◆ 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 indicated on the candidate script where an assessment standard was overtaken.

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.

Section 3: General comments

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.

The reasons for 'not accepted' outcomes were as follows:

- ◆ Using an old prior verified assessment which does not meet all of the current assessment standards and is no longer on SQA's website.
- ◆ Centre devised assessment did not allow candidates to overtake all the assessment standards stated by the centre.
- ◆ National 3, National 4 and SCQF level 5 — inconsistent judgements resulting in candidates being passed and failed inappropriately.
- ◆ National 4 — Physical Environments — invalid assessment task for assessment standards 1.2 and 2.4.
- ◆ National 4 — Physical Environments – using an 'old' assessment item which did not cover all the current assessment standards.
- ◆ Higher — Physical Environments — all candidates failed assessment standard 1.2 because they labelled a diagram rather than annotating it, and assessment standard 1.3 because they had labelled a map rather than presenting information in a different format. Some candidates failed assessment standard 2.2 because they did not refer to the weather/climate.

The reasons for 'verification cannot proceed':

- ◆ The centre did not provide a copy of the centre devised assessment item and the judging evidence table.