



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Health and Food Technology
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2016

National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

H203 74 National 4 Added value unit

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

All centres applied a valid approach to assessment for all candidates, using the relevant unit assessment support packs from SQA's secure website. Many centres had used a brief based on the National 5 assignment briefs, which is acceptable.

Assessment judgements

The vast majority of centres are assessing their candidates correctly in line with the national standards. However, there are a small number of areas that require attention which are outlined below.

Assessment standard 1.2

To allow for personalisation and choice, centres should encourage candidates to use a range of investigative techniques. The investigations undertaken must be appropriate: they must enable the candidate to gather information that will help them to progress towards a product solution that meets the needs in the brief, eg a questionnaire to find out the likes and dislikes of teenagers. Candidates should include a valid source for their investigation, eg appropriate web addresses. Candidates must record the results of their investigations, not make a straight

copy of information from the internet or any other material. An amended added value unit assessment support pack was published in September 2015. Candidates do not need to summarise/select information from their research findings. Centres must ensure they are using the most up-to-date unit assessment support pack when assessing their candidates.

It is inappropriate for candidates to have decided on their product solution before embarking on their investigations.

Candidates must include a recipe (with ingredients and method) and a brief justification for their chosen recipe. This justification must be based on the evidence gathered in their investigations and must link to the brief, eg *'I used carrots in the soup. I found out that carrots were liked by teenagers so they will eat this type of soup if sold in the school canteen.'*

Assessment standard 1.3

An assessor comment must be included to confirm that the product has been made safely and hygienically, using the identified ingredients and cooking method. This was not provided by a number of centres.

Assessment standard 1.4

Candidates who carried out a basic sensory test found it easier to provide valid, reflective comments on the suitability of their product. If a sensory test is being used for reflective comments then a key must be included to enable the results to be correctly interpreted. All reflective comments must be based on evidence and should not be based on the candidate's opinion, eg *'My soup scored 5, which equals 'like a lot for taste', so the teenagers will enjoy this',* as opposed to *'I thought my soup was tasty and I think the teenagers will like it.'*

The reflective comments should be linked to the chosen brief.

03

Section 3: General comments

Most centres had adopted an appropriate approach to internal verification, which went beyond cross-marking. A number of 'not accepted' decisions were given at centres that had provided little or no evidence of internal verification, which may explain why there was a lack of consistency in judging evidence. Centres are required to adopt a rigorous process of internal verification. Further guidance on internal verification can be found in the SQA Internal Verification Toolkit which is available at www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit.

A significant number of candidates had gone well beyond the standard required for National 4. Centres should not ask candidates to go beyond the requirements of the assessment standards of the level they are providing evidence for.

The Verification Team identified candidate evidence for exemplification purposes, which can be accessed and used in centres to provide further guidance, support and development. These will be made available on the Understanding Standards page of SQA's website.