

NQ Verification 2017–18 Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	History
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2018

National Courses/Units verified:

H20E 74 National 4 Added Value Unit

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Centres continue to use the unit assessment support pack, adapting from it to suit the needs of their own candidates.

Most centres provided assessment tasks that were clearly set out, indicating to candidates what is required to achieve the assessment standards, while also providing opportunities for personalisation and choice.

Centres should ensure that themes or events chosen provide a focus that allows candidates to meet the requirements of giving **two** impacts or causes.

Candidates should be supported in choosing an appropriate theme or event that allows them to meet the requirements of this unit. It is recommended that centres use the question stems included in Appendix 1 'Advice for candidates' (page 16) of the current unit assessment support pack as a basis for discussion with candidates.

Candidates should be supported using materials designed to support tasks at National 4 only, rather than a combination of materials for National 4 and National 5. National 4 is a separate qualification and should be supported accordingly.

Assessment judgements

The use of annotation at the point of achievement is now a common feature of good practice.

Many centres annotate within the body of candidates' work, highlighting more clearly where assessors are awarding achievement, especially when candidates have chosen an alternative to a written response. This is considered good practice.

The correct annotation should be used throughout, and other forms of annotation, for example K (= Knowledge), should be avoided.

Centres are encouraged to annotate all candidate evidence that meets the assessment standards, even after the minimum requirements have been met.

Centres should ensure that tasks and candidate guides avoid over-inflating the standards for National 4 added value units. Centres are reminded that candidates only have to demonstrate minimum competency to achieve the assessment standards.

Where evidence from oral assessment or re-assessment has been submitted, it should be signed by the assessor and/or the internal verifier.

In relation to specific assessment standards, centres are reminded that:

- 1.1 There should be evidence of candidate and assessor discussion that supported the choice of theme or event.
- 1.2 While two distinct sources are required, they do not need to be formally referenced in the final product. However, quotes, with no indication of their provenance through either referencing or in the planning sheet, are not sufficient.
- 1.3 The focus here should be for the candidate to organise evidence related to the three key features. This could be three paragraphs in a written response, or three separate sections within a visual product.
- 1.4 Centres should ensure that candidates provide at least two points for each of the three key features.
- 1.5 Centres are reminded that candidates should provide descriptions for two causes **or** impacts.
- 1.6 Conclusions are an acceptable but not required method of meeting this assessment standard. A summary comment anywhere within the candidate evidence, or the accurate use of specialist vocabulary also meets the standard.

Section 3: General comments

There were some highly commendable examples of candidate evidence that met, and often exceeded, the minimum requirements of the national standard. This was often achieved where candidates had taken advantage of personalisation and choice and had been well supported by centres.

Centres are reminded that candidate evidence should only be included as “Complete” when assessment and re-assessment opportunities have been utilised. “Interim” should be used only to describe candidates who have not yet met the national standard nor had the opportunity of re-assessment.

Centres should be aware that evidence given can meet the requirements of more than one assessment standard. For example, a developed point given could contribute towards the requirements of assessment standards 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6.

Centres should ensure that candidates are not asked to complete an added value unit under exam or timed conditions.