



NQ Verification 2014–15 Key Messages Round 2

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Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Mandarin Simplified
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2015

National Courses/Units verified:

C745 75 National 5 Internally Assessed Component of Course Assessment
C745 76 Higher Internally Assessed Component of Course Assessment

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Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The approach to assessment was valid as centres followed the SQA General Assessment Information for National 5 Course and Higher Course Assessment for the talking performance.

Candidates completed presentations and conversations which demonstrated a wide range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to relevant levels. Interlocutors were found to have adopted supportive approaches to help candidates display their knowledge and skills.

There was evidence of candidate reliance on the interlocutor for prompting during the presentation. Centres should note that interlocutors must not prompt candidates during the presentation. If a candidate requires prompting beyond the use of notes it may indicate that this candidate is not fully prepared for the task or is sitting at the incorrect level.

Assessment judgements

The assessment judgements were reliable and the marks awarded in line with national standards.

For the purpose of verification, it would be useful if all centres could provide commentary in the Candidate Assessment Record against the marks awarded for each section of the talking performance. In particular it would be useful to have a brief explanation as to why the centre opted for one pegged mark over another for any given section of the performance. It is important to note that all centres must provide a breakdown of candidates' marks regarding presentation, conversation and natural element. Verification cannot proceed without this breakdown.

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Section 3: General comments

Overall, verifiers were happy to note the professional conduct of assessment. It was pleasing to note that decision making was largely in line with national standards.

In some instances, candidate performance exceeded the level required. In such instances centres should carefully consider the level of presentation of future candidates.