

NQ Verification 2016–17 Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Mandarin Simplified
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	1 & 2 May 2017

National Courses/Units verified:

H7WW Modern Languages Specialist Study (Advanced Higher) Mandarin Simplified

C745 76 Modern Languages Performance-talking (Higher) Mandarin Simplified

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Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The verification team for Chinese Languages is delighted to report that the approaches used by all the centres selected for verification have been 'accepted' or 'accepted with recommendations'.

Specialist study

Overall, the approaches to assessment are valid and accepted. Centres used a range of assessment tasks to assess candidates appropriately.

Centres chose texts and topics that provided candidates with a good opportunity to demonstrate research and analysis skills.

Centres used the SQA logbook to record the process of Specialist Study Unit.

Performance–talking

In all cases, centres used a candidate assessment record for each candidate to log assessment details, including separate marks for the talking performance. This is to be commended.

However, centres are advised to pay more attention to the following aspects:

- ◆ In the choices of topics in the talking performance, centres could consider more personalisation.
- ◆ The assessor should ask more of the kind of questions that allow candidates to expand on their answers (ie open-ended questions).
- ◆ There should be questions encouraging more natural transition between the topics.
- ◆ Centres should involve one assessor during the conversation to support and help candidates in demonstrating their language skills.

Assessment judgements

Performance-talking

We are very pleased to report that the assessment judgements made by assessors in all centres have been ‘accepted’. The overall standard of candidate performance was very high.

The assessment judgements were made in line with national standards, reliable and accepted. The assessors made effective use of the marking instructions and justified how they awarded marks to each candidate.

All the centres selected for external verification included a breakdown of marks for presentation, conversation and the ability to sustain the conversation.

Centres made use of the marking information to support marks awarded to each candidate. However, centres could perhaps provide more useful and effective feedback to individual candidates to help them to refine their research.

Specialist Study

For the Specialist Study Unit, centres submitted evidence of research plans using at least two written sources in Chinese.

03 Section 3: General comments

All the centres that were selected for external verification provided good evidence of effective internal verification. This is to be commended.

For the effectiveness of Internal Verification, centres could refer to the Internal Verification Toolkit available here: www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit