NQ Verification 2016–17 Key Messages Round 2

01 Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Media
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting Verification
Date published:	June 2017

Units verified:

H235 73   National 3   Media: Analysing Media Content
H239 74   National 4   Media Assignment
H235 76   Higher   Media: Analysing Media Content

02 Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Almost every centre is now using the unit assessment support packs (UASPs) effectively at all levels. Some centres are effectively adapting the UASPs to fit with centre practice and specialisms; specific media content; or to be more supportive to candidates with specific learning needs. This can often allow candidates personalisation and choice as well as depth, breadth and challenge.

If a centre is concerned that changes to assessment tasks may impact on the standard, they should submit the adapted assessment for prior verification to ensure the validity of the assessment approach. This service provided by SQA is free and is available to all centres.

At Higher level, a wide range of texts are being taught and, in a number of cases, centres have chosen to use a themed approach, which may allow candidates to have a greater degree of personalisation and choice.

In all of the centres sampled, the assessment approach met with the criteria set out in the unit specifications.

Assessment judgements

For the majority of centres, the judgements being made for the assessment standards in the units sampled are consistent and reliable.

At Higher, most centres are making consistent and reliable assessment judgements. Candidates are developing more detailed and complex responses, which lead to clear analysis, and responses that are justified through informed textual referencing.

The majority of assessment judgements made for the National 4 added value unit were accurate and, in many cases, took into account naturally occurring evidence. The recording of achievement of assessment standards has developed with practice and some centres are digitally reporting achievement with supporting comment. This is beneficial to candidates as well as to the internal verifier and also for external verification.

This use of digital recording was also observed in Higher Analysing Media Content evidence. Some centres have developed colour coded reporting of individual key aspects which makes the collection of naturally occurring evidence much more straightforward and is of benefit to the candidate and the verifier.

03 ▶ Section 3: General comments

There is significant evidence of effective internal verification throughout the majority of centres. Evidence of good practice from individual departments, faculties and collegiate approaches was noted.

Documentation is generally very well done, especially where centres record assessment judgements using the material in the published UASPs.

As already commented on, the use of colour coding and digital recording of achievement of assessment standards is good practice as it can be used as scaffolding for the candidates and as a clear indicator of how internal verification has been carried out.

In the National 4 added value unit, centres should be aware that for assessment standard 1.1 candidates are required to describe 'at least three ideas'. It is important to note that these need only to be a description of three separate codes and may be described 'in general' or in reference to 'the key aspects'.

Overall it is clear that centres have an accurate understanding of the approaches to assessment and the standard required at each level to make accurate assessment judgements.