



**National Qualifications 2015
Internal Assessment Report
English and Communication**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Courses

Titles/levels of National Courses verified:

F796 Language Study English (Intermediate 2)

F796 Language Study English (Higher)

General comments

Overall, the materials verified showed that the centres sampled had a clear understanding of the requirements for Language Study. Assessment judgements were applied consistently, and were in line with national standards.

Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The requirement to use a valid and current instrument of assessment (Close Reading NAB) for the assessment of Reading was understood and adhered to by all of the centres verified. Current instruments of assessment, available from the SQA Secure site, were used by all centres sampled.

Appropriate tasks were employed by all centres for the assessment of Writing. All centres demonstrated a good understanding of the national standard through reference to the associated Performance Criteria.

Evidence Requirements

Overall, a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements was apparent. It should be noted that the requirement is for centres to produce evidence for both Reading and Writing in order that verification can be carried out for the Unit as a whole. For each candidate the requirement is for one completed piece of Writing, and one Reading assessment (Close Reading NAB). Language Study assesses both Reading and Writing.

Administration of assessments

The administration of assessments was in line with Course Arrangements and achieved or not achieved judgements. Close Reading marking adhered carefully to the NAB Marking Instructions.

Controlled conditions and the use of unseen instruments of assessments were applied to the assessment of Reading. Clear evidence of supervision throughout the drafting process, in order to guarantee authenticity, was seen in the assessment of Writing.

Many centres supplied evidence of appropriate internal verification procedures.

Areas of good practice

- ◆ High standards of commitment, engagement and achievement were apparent in the work of many candidates.
- ◆ Assessment tasks given (in both Reading and Writing) were appropriate to entry level.
- ◆ In Reading, clear signs of insight and sophisticated analysis were apparent in the responses of many candidates.
- ◆ Sensitive and thoughtful expression of creative, discursive and personal ideas was widely seen in candidates' writing.
- ◆ Current and appropriate NAB assessments were employed to assess Reading.
- ◆ For the assessment of Reading, Marking Instructions were often clearly and helpfully annotated in instances where assessment judgements had to be highlighted. These annotations helped to assist with standardisation within a department or faculty.
- ◆ Where candidates were yet to achieve a Unit pass, clear, supportive and precise advice was offered by assessors. This advice indicated appropriate next steps.
- ◆ In Writing, candidates were offered a wide range of challenging and engaging tasks. The level of engagement with these tasks was note-worthy.
- ◆ Detailed, well-organised, specific and encouraging feedback was provided to candidates in order to support the improvement of skills in Writing.
- ◆ Effective checklists were often employed to assist with the formative and summative assessment of Writing.
- ◆ Scripts for both Writing and Reading were often annotated in a helpful way.
- ◆ Many departments and faculties employed effective policies and procedures for internal verification and cross-marking.

Specific areas for improvement

- ◆ Current NABs from the SQA Secure Site are required for the Reading element of the Language Study Unit.
- ◆ In the assessment of Reading it is good practice to make it clear, through the precise use of ticks, exactly where marks have been awarded. The number of marks awarded should be clearly indicated beside the candidates' responses for each question.
- ◆ Writing pieces should be marked with achieved or not achieved assessment judgements.
- ◆ For verification purposes, it helps greatly if internal verification processes are clearly visible. This can be done through cross-marking, and associated annotation of candidates' scripts.