



**National Qualifications 2015**  
**Internal Assessment Report**  
**Managing Environmental**  
**Resources**

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

# National Qualifications (NQ) Units

Titles/levels of National Courses verified:

Higher component Units of Managing Environmental Resources Course  
D312/12 Natural Resource Use

Intermediate 2 component Units of Managing Environmental Resources Course  
D310/11 Ecosystems

## General comments

All centres provided evidence of a satisfactory standard.

Outcomes 1 and 2 were assessed using current SQA NAB materials in all the centres verified. Marking schemes were used effectively in most cases.

Outcome 3 evidence was not submitted by any centre. It should be noted that at all levels candidates must pass Outcome 3 in one of the component Units before an overall pass can be awarded.

Marking was generally accurate and consistent to the level or standard of the Course followed. Mark schemes were provided and in many cases had been adapted to reflect current acceptable answers or local examples. Centres are encouraged to amend the mark scheme as relevant with up-to-date issues and developments in the environmental field and local examples.

Two-thirds of the centres in the verification sample successfully used a robust internal verification process for all the candidates' work. The proportion of centres using internal verification procedures has increased over the last three years. The final third did not use any internal verification process. Internal verification proved valuable in clarifying marks or picking up minor administration errors.

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

All centres used up-to-date assessment materials and applied the mark schemes effectively.

## Evidence Requirements

Centres provided appropriate evidence material.

Centres provided evidence of passed and failed assessments where appropriate re-sits had taken place.

## **Administration of assessments**

All centres administered the assessments appropriately but some would benefit from the use of a robust internal verification process. This process identifies any marking inaccuracies and administration errors.

## **Areas of good practice**

- ◆ Internal verification was used effectively by two-thirds of centres sampled. In the examples of best practice, different coloured pens were used to identify individual markers.
- ◆ Mark schemes were amended by most centres to show additional acceptable answers and include current/local examples.
- ◆ It was generally clear from the scripts where marks had been allocated.
- ◆ Centres have successfully used Assessment Cover Sheets to show totals of marks and evidence of internal verification.
- ◆ One centre provided a copy of an internal verification policy that applied to the whole centre. There was evidence of robust internal verification across all subjects in that particular centre.

## **Specific areas for improvement**

- ◆ Centres are advised of the value of internal verification to identify consistent marking and to check for administration errors.
- ◆ Centres are reminded to amend the mark schemes with current examples and modified answers which are deemed acceptable. These amended mark schemes should be submitted with the material for verification.
- ◆ Clearer indication of where each mark was awarded would assist both internal and external verification. Centres are advised that half marks are not to be awarded.