



**National Qualifications 2015
Internal Assessment Report
Religious, Moral and
Philosophical Studies**

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 NQ Units verified:

F5A6 13 Philosophy of Religion (Advanced Higher)
F59E 12 World Religion (Higher)
F59E 11 World Religion (Intermediate 2)
F59E 10 World Religion (Intermediate 1)
F58Y 12 Christianity: Belief and Science (Higher)
F58Y 11 Christianity: Belief and Science (Intermediate 2)
F59K 12 Morality in the Modern World (Higher)
F59K 11 Morality in the Modern World (Intermediate 2)

General comments

There were 28 centres sampled: 10 for Unit F59K, nine for Unit F59E, five for Unit F59Y and four for Unit F5A6.

Of the World Religions verified in the sample, for Unit F59E, the most popular religion was Buddhism. Christianity and Judaism made up the rest of the sample.

Once again the majority of centres sampled were found to be marking at the national standard and centres are to be commended for their consistency in their marking.

It was obvious from the verification process that candidates were being presented at the appropriate level. Centres have clearly worked hard to ensure that all candidates had the appropriate knowledge and skills to deal with the assessments that they were being presented with.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

It was evident that the vast majority of centres clearly grasped and understood both the Unit specifications and the instruments of assessment. A small number of centres failed to use the correct instruments of assessment and this was corrected in follow-up verification.

Evidence Requirements

Once again the majority of centres submitted appropriate candidate evidence that had been marked in a clear way and this ensured the smooth running of the verification process. It was obvious that the vast majority of centres were comfortable in their preparation for this particular verification process.

Administration of assessments

Of the centres that submitted, only a very small number failed to use the appropriate assessment materials.

Good evidence of cross-marking/internal verification before the verification process was demonstrated by most of the centres contained in the sample.

Areas of good practice

It was good to see that most centres had applied the marking instructions in a consistent way and had allowed for candidates giving responses that were not specifically stated in the NAB materials. Whilst this is what centres are supposed to do, it has not always happened.

The verification team were encouraged to see more centres using written comments to give feedback to candidates. This has been on the increase over the past few years and it is something that all centres should adopt as it clearly helps candidates to develop their work further. With the removal of marks from internal assessments this practice is supportive to not only the candidates, but it also gives verifiers the information that they need when verifying a centre's assessment judgements.

It was encouraging for the verification team to see that many candidates made good use of quotations/sources in their responses and this enabled the candidates to develop their answers in a deeper way. Centres are to be commended for developing this skill in their candidates.

Many centres demonstrated that they had employed rigorous cross-marking and internal verification procedures. These procedures made it very clear to the verifiers exactly what mark the candidates had achieved and how the various markers had arrived at that agreed total. Centres are encouraged to further develop their internal verification procedures as this helps reduce the number of centres that do not pass verification at the first attempt.

Specific areas for improvement

Centres are encouraged to ensure that all SQA paperwork is properly completed. Any internal verification process should include checking the completion of the relevant paperwork.

Although only a small number of centres failed to use appropriate internal assessment materials, it is a concern to the verification team that this happened at all. All centres should ensure that they have the most current assessment materials before they assess any candidates. A properly applied robust system of internal verification would ensure that this happens.

A few centres failed to clearly show where marks were being allocated to candidates and this made it difficult for the verification team to verify the centres' assessments. All centres are reminded that assessments should clearly show where the relevant marks are being allocated and what the total mark is.

It was a concern to the verification team that some centres still did not clearly demonstrate that they had employed a cross-marking process. Cross-marking is crucial to any internal verification process as well as helping centres to ensure

that they are indeed assessing at national standard. Previous reports have suggested ways that this can be developed and centres are encouraged to refer to these reports.

Clearly showing candidates where they are achieving KU and AE marks is helpful both for the candidate and for the verification process. The practice of clearly showing on the candidate script where marks are achieved is a practice that all centres should seek to apply in future.

Centres are reminded that consistency in application of any marking scheme is important in ensuring that all candidate responses are treated in the same way and that a candidate is credited for content that clearly meets the assessment standards.