



Qualification Verification Summary Report

NQ Verification 2018–19

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2019

National Units verified:

H24A 73	National 3	Comparing and Contrasting
H24B 73	National 3	Making Decisions
H249 73	National 3	Investigating Skills
H24A 74	National 4	Comparing and Contrasting
H24B 74	National 4	Making Decisions
H249 74	National 4	Investigating Skills
H24C 74	National 4	People and Society Assignment — added value unit

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ Some centres have created their own assessments which are of a good standard.
- ◆ Many centres have adapted the unit assessment support packs to the topics/issues they have studied.
- ◆ Some centres have created a work booklet to guide and document candidates' progress through units and the assignment.
- ◆ Some centres provided their internal verification policy and completed checklists for the unit assessments which allowed verifiers to check assessment approaches more easily.

Action points:

- ◆ When centres are creating their own assessment, it is advised that they submit these to SQA so that they may be prior verified.
- ◆ When centres are using a unit assessment support pack, the judging the evidence table should also be adapted by giving suggested answers which meet the assessment standard/s in relation to their topic/issue.
- ◆ Assessment command words should be appropriate to the level of the assessment. For example, at National 3 'explain' is not needed and will result in the over-assessing of candidates.
- ◆ The topic/issue chosen for the unit should be the same for both outcome 1 and outcome 2.
- ◆ Key ideas must be chosen from the list on page 4 of the unit specification.
- ◆ Candidates should name the book, newspaper or website used in their presentation for the People and Society Assignment and/or Investigating Skills unit.
- ◆ The Internal Verification Toolkit on the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit) gives meaningful guidance and references.

Assessment judgements

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ Most centres were judging the evidence well according to the appropriate assessment standard.
- ◆ Assessors marking exactly where each assessment standard the candidate has achieved on the candidate's work allowed verifiers to identify assessment judgements.
- ◆ Some assessors are marking a 'D' for description or 'E' for explanation beside the tick or the assessment standard number. This is particularly helpful for verifiers to identify where the two descriptions and two explanations needed for assessment standard 1.4 in the assignment have been met.
- ◆ Some centres identified which key ideas had been chosen by the candidate and made this clear in the margins of the candidate's evidence. This was useful for verifiers in quality assuring assessment judgements.
- ◆ Cross-marking of candidates' work helped to ensure assessment judgement decisions were more reliable.

Action points:

- ◆ Centre assessors must mark where the candidate has achieved each assessment standard on each candidate's evidence to allow verifiers to verify centres' assessment judgements. Verifiers are responsible for assessing centre assessment judgements and do not mark the candidate evidence.
- ◆ Centres are reminded that they can submit 'interim' evidence. In such cases the centre result for the candidate, recorded on the Verification Sample Form, should read 'fail' as the candidate has not yet completed all of the outcomes successfully.

- ◆ For all units, with the exception of the National 4 assignment, assessment standard 2.3 asks for candidates to show knowledge and understanding of the two (National 3) or three (National 4) key ideas they have chosen. This knowledge and understanding must be shown in each candidate's answers and assessors should mark each key idea separately.
- ◆ For the National 4 assignment, assessment standard 1.1 and assessment standard 1.4 require reference to a key idea. While the candidate can make implicit reference to the key idea, assessors should make clear which key idea is being used to allow verifiers to assess their assessment judgements in relation to this.
- ◆ For the National 4 assignment, assessment standard 1.2 and assessment standard 1.3 require candidates to collect, organise and use two sources of different types. Evidence of this should be provided which is more than the identification of two sources. For example, a copy of notes taken from a video could be used as one source of information. Further examples of possible evidence are available in column 4, pages 8 and 9 of the unit assessment support pack for H24C 74 National 4 People and Society Assignment.
- ◆ When verbal discussions are taking place to establish a candidate's understanding of an assessment standard, the questions asked by the assessor and the candidate's responses should be recorded on the candidate evidence. This allows the verification team to verify the judgement made by the centre based on the content of these discussions.

03

Section 3: General comments

The following comments are intended as a guide to centres on future practice:

- ◆ At least one full outcome, and all the assessment standards within it, must be attempted by candidates to allow verification to take place.
- ◆ Centres must ensure that the evidence presented by candidates is their own work and should not accept evidence which has been copied and pasted or plagiarised.
- ◆ Key ideas must be chosen from the list in the course or unit specification and should be linked to the topic/issue studied.
- ◆ For all National 4 units (except the assignment), centres are reminded that candidates must describe (assessment standard 2.1) and give brief explanations (assessment standard 2.2).
- ◆ In the assignment, for assessment standard 1.5 candidates should make a decision or compare and contrast. Candidates may find this more straightforward if they have a question about their topic/issue to answer. A conclusion does not necessarily provide the evidence required to meet assessment standard 1.5.
- ◆ For Investigating Skills (assessment standard 1.2) and the assignment (assessment standard 1.2), two sources of information of different types must be used, meaning websites cannot be used twice.