



NQ Verification 2017–18

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2018

National Courses/Units verified:

H24A	73	Comparing and Contrasting
H24B	73	Making Decisions
H249	73	Investigating Skills
H24A	74	Comparing and Contrasting
H24B	74	Making Decisions
H24C	74	Assignment

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 in line with the national standard.
- ◆ Many centres have successfully adapted the Unit Assessment Support Packs to the topics/issue they have studied.
- ◆ Some centres have created a work booklet to guide and document candidates' progress through the Assignment.
- ◆ Some centres provided their internal verification policy and completed checklists for the unit assessments. This allowed verifiers to check assessment approaches more easily.

Action points:

- ◆ When centres are using an SQA Unit Assessment Support Pack, they should adapt the Judging the Evidence table (JET) to their topic/issue by providing

possible answers which they deem to be in line with the assessment standard(s).

- ◆ The [Internal Verification toolkit](#) on the SQA website gives meaningful guidance and references.

Assessment judgements

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ Most centres' judgements were in line with the appropriate assessment standard.
- ◆ An indication on the candidate's evidence of where the candidate has achieved each assessment standard allowed verifiers to clearly see assessment judgements.
- ◆ The use of 'D' for description or 'E' for explanation beside the tick or the AS number was particularly helpful for verifiers to see where the two descriptions and two explanations needed for assessment standard 1.4 in the Assignment had been met.
- ◆ Cross-marking of candidate's work helped to ensure the reliability of assessment judgements.

Action points:

- ◆ Assessors must mark on the candidates' evidence where the candidate has achieved each assessment standard; this allows verifiers to verify centres' assessment judgements. Some centres submitted unmarked candidate evidence, resulting in a Verification Cannot Proceed outcome.
- ◆ For all units, assessment standard 2.3 asks 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 evidence and assessors should mark each key idea separately.
- ◆ If the evidence that an assessment standard has been met is in the candidate's jotter, verifiers need to provide a copy of this work with the assessor's judgement marked on it.
- ◆ When verbal discussions are happening to check a candidate's understanding of an assessment standard, assessors should write the questions used by the assessor and the responses given by the candidate on the candidate's evidence. This allows verifiers to understand why the assessor has made assessment judgements in relation to the candidate's evidence.
- ◆ The JETs should be used consistently when multiple assessors are teaching the unit/course.

Section 3: General comments

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

- ◆ Candidates should always put information into their own words.
- ◆ Key ideas must be chosen from the list in the course or unit specification and should be linked to the topic/issue studied.
- ◆ Candidates should name the book, newspaper or website used in their presentation for the Assignment and/or Investigating Skills unit.
- ◆ For all National 4 units, candidates must describe (assessment standard 2.1) and give brief explanations (assessment standard 2.2). Many candidates did not provide an explanation.
- ◆ In the Assignment, candidates should make a decision, or compare and contrast (assessment standard 1.5) — this is completed more easily if they have a question within their topic/issue to answer. A conclusion alone does not necessarily mean either of these skills has been undertaken.
- ◆ 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 that websites cannot be used twice.