NQ Verification 2016–17 Key Messages Round 2

01 ▶ Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2017

National Courses/Units verified:

H24C 74   National 4   Assignment (Added Value Unit)

02 ▶ Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The Assignment (National 4) Added Value Unit was the unit presented for this round of verification.

All centres used the People and Society Assignment (National 4) Added Value Unit package.

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

♦ When a survey/questionnaire was used as a source, a tally of results was submitted by the candidate and this was then referred to in the write-up.

♦ Statements quoted from a source had the origin of the quote next to it and then these were referred to in the write-up.

♦ Candidates were being given the opportunity to choose different topics to investigate and different methods of presentation.

♦ Centres are providing detailed internal verification policies and completed checklists for the unit assessments which allow verifiers to verify assessment approaches more easily.

Action points

♦ Centres should ensure they include their adapted judging evidence table or marking scheme for their topic/issue chosen to allow verifiers to see what they deem suitable of a pass for each assessment standard.

♦ If you are unsure about internal verification procedures, the Internal Verification toolkit on the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit) gives meaningful guidance and references on how to complete it.

Assessment judgements

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

♦ Many centres judgment of the evidence in relation to specific assessment standards were in line with the national standard.

♦ Assessors indicating where a candidate has met the requirements for an assessment standard and which assessment standard has been met on the assessment evidence, provides clear feedback for candidates and also allows verifiers to assess judgements more easily. One centre used a different colour of highlighter pen for each assessment standard allowing verifiers to easily identify where the centre felt the candidate had met the assessment standard and which assessment standard.

♦ In all units, description and brief explanation must be given. Some centres are encouraging candidates to use conjunctions to show this clearly.

♦ When a centre has a verbal discussion with a candidate to check their understanding of an assessment standard, the centre wrote on the candidate's evidence the questions used by the assessor and answers given by the candidate. This enabled the verification team to understand the centre's assessment judgments.

♦ Cross-marking of candidate's work helped to ensure assessment judgements were more reliable.

Action points

♦ For verifiers to be able to verify a centre's assessment judgements, assessors must mark on candidate evidence where and which assessment standards are being met.

♦ Assessment judgements should be detailed enough to allow verifiers to assess judgements. For example, it would be helpful in relation to assessment standard 1.4 for both descriptions and both brief explanations to be indicated on the candidate evidence.

♦ For assessment standard 1.1, candidates should draw on one key idea studied in the People and Society course to choose their topic/issue. The chosen key idea should be made clear in the presentation by the candidate and/or assessor.

♦ 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 from another source.

03 Section 3: General comments

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

♦ Assessors must ensure their candidates do not copy or lift information straight from their sources. Candidates can quote and reference information, or show their understanding by putting it into their own words.

♦ Only 12 candidates' scripts are required to be submitted for verification.

♦ Centres are reminded that unit assessment support packs are available on the SQA Secure site. These have a suggested layout for assessments and give further details as to the minimum requirements needed to meet national standards in the judging evidence table.