



NQ Verification 2016–17

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

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

National Courses/Units verified:

H249 73 National 3 Investigating Skills
H249 74 National 4 Investigating Skills

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Investigating Skills was the only unit presented for this round of verification. Centres had presented at both National 3 and National 4 level.

All centres used Package 1: Unit by unit approach and had created their own assessments on topics they had chosen.

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ Some centres have created their own assessments to a good standard.
- ◆ Good examples were seen of centres providing a planning sheet for the Investigating Skills unit, which guided candidates to give all the information required to pass each assessment standard (AS).
- ◆ Centres are providing detailed internal verification policies and completed checklists for the unit assessments which allow verifiers to check assessment approaches more easily.
- ◆ Candidates were being given the opportunity to choose different topics to investigate.

Action points

- ◆ When centres create their own assessments, they should ensure tasks allow all assessment standards they wish to assess, to be assessed. For example, AS2.3 asks candidates to show knowledge and understanding of two (National 3) or three (National 4) key ideas drawn from the list in the course and unit specifications, yet some centres did not include this in their task, therefore not allowing their candidates the opportunity to pass this AS.
- ◆ Centres should ensure that they include their adapted judging the evidence table or marking scheme to allow verifiers to see what they deem suitable of a pass of 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:

- ◆ Some centres were judging the evidence well according to the appropriate assessment standard.
- ◆ 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 work the questions used by the assessor and answers given by the candidate. This then allowed the verification team to see why the centre had made the decision it had about the candidate.
- ◆ Assessors marking where the candidate has achieved the assessment standard and which assessment standard has been met on the candidate's work, allows verifiers to assess judgements more easily.
- ◆ Cross-marking of candidate work helped to ensure assessment judgement decisions were more reliable.

Action points

- ◆ For verifiers to be able to pass the centre's assessment judgements, assessors must mark on scripts where and which assessment standards are being met.
- ◆ For all units, 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.
- ◆ Centres should not pass candidates who have 'copied and pasted' or plagiarised information. Information should always be in the candidate's own words.

Section 3: General comments

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

- ◆ Centres are reminded that unit assessment support packs (UASPs) are available on the SQA secure site. These have suggested layouts for assessments and give further details as to the minimum requirements needed to meet national standards in the judging the evidence table (JET).
- ◆ Candidate evidence submitted for verification should match the centre assessment and JET/marketing scheme for the chosen unit.
- ◆ Prior verification is recommended if centres are creating their own assessments or that significantly changing SQA's assessments to suit their particular needs. This can be submitted free of charge during certain windows throughout the year.
- ◆ Candidates must be advised that if they are using their jotter notes as a source of information, they should not just copy or lift this information straight from their jotter but instead put it into their own words.
- ◆ Round 1 of verification is for unit assessments at National 3 and National 4 and round 2 of verification is for the National 4 Added Value Unit.