Qualification Verification Summary Report
NQ Verification 2018–19

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies
Verification event/visiting information:	Event
Date published:	June 2019

National Units verified:

Unit code	Level	Unit title
H263 73	National 3	World Religion
H264 73	National 3	Morality and Belief
H265 73	National 3	Religious and Philosophical Questions
H263 74	National 4	World Religion
H264 74	National 4	Morality and Belief
H265 74	National 4	Religious and Philosophical Questions
H266 74	National 4	RMPS: Assignment — added value unit
H263 75	SCQF level 5	World Religion
H264 75	SCQF level 5	Morality and Belief
H265 75	SCQF level 5	Religious and Philosophical Questions
H263 76	SCQF level 6	World Religion
H264 76	SCQF level 6	Morality and Belief
H265 76	SCQF level 6	Religious and Philosophical Questions
H7XH 77	Advanced Higher	Philosophy of Religion
H7XK 77	Advanced Higher	Medical Ethics

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

During verification, the following examples of good practice were observed:

Once again the majority of centres that were verified at the two events were deemed to be either 'accepted' or 'accepted*'. This was encouraging to the verification team as it shows that the majority of centres are consistent in their application of assessment approaches and in their assessment judgements.

Some centres had effectively used the 'sample questions' that are included in the unit assessment support pack materials as the basis of their assessment materials.

In addition, there were some centres that demonstrated a variety of support opportunities for their candidates, and this structured approach was a very positive strategy for guiding candidates through the two stages of the added value unit process.

Action points:

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

A few centres had used 'out of date' unit specifications and this meant that their application of assessment standards failed verification. Centres are reminded that they should always use the most up to date assessment standards and these can be found on the SQA secure website. Details of how to access this can be obtained from each centre's SQA co-ordinator.

Centres are reminded that the assessment standards cannot be changed and the latest assessment standards must be used or candidates will be disadvantaged.

When centres devise their own assessment approaches they should include some exemplar responses in column four of their judging the evidence table for verification as this greatly helps the verification process.

Assessment judgements

During the verification events, the following examples of good practice were observed:

The majority of centres submitted candidate evidence that was clearly marked to show where each assessment standard was/wasn't being met. This was done through highlighting, underlining, bracketing, numbering, etc. These annotations made the verification process straightforward and is to be commended.

All centres verified judged assessment standard 1.6 correctly, in that this standard relates to the candidate 'presenting their findings' and does not relate to a conclusion.

It was encouraging for the verification team to see that a few centres had used 'discussion with candidates' as a means of eliciting further information from candidates to qualify any achievement of an assessment standard.

The internal verification procedure of most of the centres verified was clear and well laid out as well as being put into practice and this meant that reviewing assessment judgements was a straightforward process. Centres are commended for this consistency of approach.

Action points:

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

A few centres submitted evidence for more than one unit assessment for each candidate at the same level. This generates extra work both for the centre and the verification team. Centres are reminded of the guidance on evidence required for external verification that can be found on the SQA website.

Some centres did not clearly show on candidate responses exactly where each assessment standard had been met. Some centres had actually submitted candidate materials with no indication at all where assessment standards had been met and this made the verification process impossible.

The Verification Sample Form was not always correctly completed. A few centres judged their candidates to have 'failed' as they had not completed all the assessment standards. However, the evidence that was submitted was interim evidence and the candidate had actually 'passed' the assessment standards that had been submitted although they had not completed all the assessment standards.

A few centres did not seem to be aware of the fact that RMPS has a holistic approach to assessment standards and this means that 'if a candidate broadly meets the requirements of the assessment standards then there is no need for re-assessment'. The link to information on this approach can be found in the 'General Comments Section' below.

While most centres submitted evidence of a structured internal verification policy, a few centres did not seem to have applied their own policy and this meant that their assessment judgements were inconsistent and there was some confusion as to which candidates had 'passed' as there was no overall judgement submitted. Centres are reminded that the internal verification procedures of each centre are there to ensure that the proper evidence is submitted to SQA for verification as well as ensuring that assessment judgements are clear and evidenced.

03 ▶ Section 3: General comments

Centres should note that the first step of any internal verification exercise should be to ensure that the centre is using the correct assessment standards to assess their candidates' work. Centres should also check any submitted SQA paperwork to ensure that it is properly filled in. This paperwork (including the SQA checklist) should reflect any evidence that is being submitted.

Centres should also note that RMPS is included in Approach 3 for unit assessment approaches and information on the assessment approach for RMPS can be found in: NQ Next Steps — Guide to what this means for teachers and lecturers.

Centres are also reminded that assessment standards for the added value unit can be met in both the research stage as well as the presentation of findings stage.

Some centres submitted excessive candidate evidence in their submissions. Centres are reminded that they only need to submit evidence for one unit for each group of candidates at a level.

See:
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Generating_the_evidence_sample.pdf and https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf

Centres may want to refer to the SQA link below for further information on internal verification within a centre: https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/74670.html

Centres are reminded that queries to do with the assessment standards and the verification process should be addressed by the SQA Verification Team. Other sources may not be using current practices and as a result, advising centres incorrectly.