NQ Verification 2017–18 Key Messages Round 1

01 ▶ Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Spanish
Verification event/visiting information	Postal
Date published:	March 2018

National Courses/Units verified:

H26S	National 3	Understanding Language
H26T	National 3	Using Language
H26T	National 4	Using Language
H26S	SCQF level 5	Understanding Language

02 ▶ Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The approaches to assessment used by centres selected for verification were all 'accepted'. All centres sampled in round one used the SQA unit assessment support packs or a centre-devised approach.

It is encouraging to note that centres indicated clearly which unit assessment support pack they used, eg 'Spanish — Listening and Talking Package 1, combined approach'.

Centres are reminded that they may wish to reformat the approach to assessment provided in the unit assessment support packs by slightly amending the questions, texts, or layout to suit their candidates' needs, while maintaining the standard. Where appropriate, the layout provided for candidate answers can be enlarged to ensure there is sufficient space for candidates' handwritten responses.

Assessment judgements

The majority of the assessment judgements made by assessors were 'accepted'. Where the assessment judgements for centres were 'accepted', centres provided evidence in the form of judging evidence tables or centre-devised documents, which provided a note of acceptable answers. The majority of centres also provided evidence of how assessment judgements had been made in relation to the assessment standards, by noting detailed comments in the candidate assessment records against each assessment standard, eg 1.1 and 1.2 in Reading. It is important to have this level of detail, as well as the result for the outcome, eg Listening outcome. This pinpoints for centres and verifiers which assessment standards may still require to be overtaken by candidates.

Where assessment judgements were 'not accepted', this mainly arose when candidates were deemed to not have provided sufficient correct detail for each assessment standard to be met. There is no expectation that candidates would answer everything correctly, but they must provide sufficient acceptable responses in assessments to be in line with national standards. Thorough internal verification and discussion (with final decision and reasons noted by the assessor/internal verifier) should help centres decide if candidates' responses meet individual assessment standards, and subsequently the outcome.

03 ▶ Section 3: General comments

The majority of centres submitted very clear and well-organised packages for verification. This facilitated the verification process and assisted in providing useful feedback to centres.

Centres are reminded they should complete the Verification Sample Form to indicate which unit(s) and level(s) were used to assess the candidates. They should also provide the overall 'pass'/'fail' decision for each candidate where a complete unit has been submitted.

Where evidence for part of a unit has been submitted, centres should note 'interim' in the 'pass'/'fail' column on the Verification Sample Form. Centres should then note the 'pass'/'fail' decision for the individual assessment standards and the outcome on the candidate assessment record (or equivalent) for each candidate.

The majority of centres included evidence of internal verification. In some instances a more thorough application of internal verification procedures and/or cross-marking would have helped to iron out discrepancies in assessment judgements.

Centres are reminded that they must have an effective internal quality assurance system to ensure that all candidates are assessed accurately, fairly, and consistently to national standards. For further guidance, the centre could refer to the Internal Verification Toolkit available here:
https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/74671.html