



NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Message Reports

Verification group name:	Gaelic (Learners)
Levels	N4 and N5
Date published:	July 2014

This Report combines all Verification Key Messages for the academic session 2013-14.



NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Gaelic (Learners)
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	January 2014

National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

National 4	H277 74	Understanding Language
	H278 74	Using Language
National 5	H277 75	Understanding Language

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Some centres have amended the assessment instrument, and this was commended.

In addition to altering transcripts, assessors are also permitted to amend the questions. However, this should be done in a way that will not disadvantage candidates.

Assessment judgements

There must be evidence of robust internal verification, such as comments made on the assessor's judgements.

In order for verification to proceed, internally and at SQA, assessors must make 'judging evidence' tables available.

In addition to providing judging evidence tables, it is useful if the assessor(s) provides written comments demonstrating how the assessment judgement was made.

If a centre has used a Unit assessment support pack without any changes, and submitted both the assessment from Appendix 1 of the Unit assessment support pack and the candidate evidence, along with a candidate assessment record or equivalent document which clearly shows the basis on which assessment judgements have been made against the Assessment Standards, then they are not required to submit the judging evidence table with the evidence for verification.

In order to achieve an overall 'pass', candidates must meet all Assessment Standards. For example, if a candidate were to fail the overall purpose question, this would mean an overall fail.

03

Section 3: General comments

It was useful to the verification team that some centres noted whether they regarded a candidate's performance as 'clear pass' 'borderline pass' etc.

The majority of the evidence submitted for verification was for National 4.



NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Gaelic Learners
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2014

National Courses/Units verified:

H277
H278
H277 74

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

H277: Some centres used SQA's Unit assessment support (UAS) packages and this was commended. However, it was evident in round 2 that assessors had grown in confidence and had amended the UAS packages to suit the learning and teaching.

H278: Some centres submitted recording of candidates' speaking assessments and this was commended. In addition to this, or instead of this, some centres submitted detailed observation notes.

H277 74: Centres demonstrated innovative approaches towards the Added Value Unit assessment. It is recommended that the Added Value Unit assessment relates to a topic that is relevant to the candidates' own experience and their community. Assessors should ensure candidates are given the opportunity for personalisation and choice, eg through being given a choice between different texts.

Assessors should ensure that they avoid questions which stipulate the number of details required. This will encourage the more candidates to stretch themselves, while not disadvantaging less able candidates.

Some centres used the 'overall purpose' question very effectively, providing candidates with three possible responses, all of which were somewhat correct, while only one summed up the overall purpose.

Assessment judgements

The assessment judgements made in all centres were accurate. Some centres made excellent use of judging evidence tables to communicate to the verifiers how they had come to their assessment judgements.

It was evident in all centres that a second assessor had looked at the instrument of assessment, the candidates' performance and the judgements made. However, in some cases this was only demonstrated by a signature, or a statement of general agreement. It is important to document the assessment judgements of both assessors. This may include details of professional dialogue regarding the approach to assessment and the assessment judgements. It may be useful to centres to familiarise themselves with internal verification templates developed by some local authorities.

03

Section 3: General comments

All assessment judgements were accurate, and, for the most part, communicated effectively to the verifiers.

Centres are demonstrating greater confidence when adapting UAS packages, and devising their own assessments.

Gaelic teachers should seek to liaise with their colleagues in Gaelic departments and in modern languages departments, to facilitate moderation and verification.



NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Messages Round 3

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Gaelic (Learners)
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2014

National Courses verified:

National 5 Gaelic (Learners) (C731 75)

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Most centres used the SQA National 5 Course assessment task to assess candidates.

Some centres did not apply the pegged marks appropriately.

Centres must only use the pegged marks from the National 5 Modern Languages performance: talking assessment task document provided, and no other marks in between.

Assessment judgements

On the whole, assessment judgements were in line with National 5. However, some centres should ensure that candidates are given the scope to respond using detailed language, as appropriate to National 5.

Interlocutors should use more open-ended questions, using detailed language. This would help to elicit responses from candidates in which they were able to demonstrate their ability at this level.

The centres should also make commentaries that relate more closely to the bullet points used in the National 5 Modern Languages performance: talking assessment task document.

Centres should use the checklist for subject specialists provided by SQA to ensure that all necessary documents have been included in the submission.

All centres provided some evidence of internal verification. However, in some centres, the process has not identified issues relating to the correct use of pegged marks and the requirement to submit evidence of how assessment judgements were made. For example, it would be useful if centres provided evidence of professional dialogue as this would help exemplify how the assessment judgements were made.

At the point of notification of selection, a checklist is provided to centres to remind them to submit evidence of internal verification.

03

Section 3: General comments

The standard of candidate performances was varied.

In some centres, the natural element of the conversation was very confident.

Candidates should be encouraged to ask the interlocutor questions as this would facilitate a more natural conversation.