NQ Verification 2013–14

Key Message Reports

Verification group name:	Gàidhlig
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:	Gàidhlig
Verification event/visiting information	External verification
Date published:	January 2014

National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

National 4	H27F 74	Added Value Unit
National 5	H27E 75	Creation and Production
National 5	H27D75	Analysis and Evaluation

02 ▶ Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

There is evidence to suggest a strong approach to assessment by centres across the country. Most centres have used the Unit support materials available to them and good practice includes use of Unit assessment support packs such as the National 5, Package 2, Unit-by-Unit approach. This was used effectively by a number of centres who adapted the pack for their own purposes. The National 4 Added Value Unit assessment support pack was also used successfully.

Assessment judgements

Assessment judgements were generally very good, with good practice demonstrated especially by centres who implemented a strong internal verification strategy. In a subject such as Gàidhlig where there is a relatively small number of schools, and departments within schools, internal verification can be difficult. Some centres have overcome this issue by linked up with other schools to good effect in order to implement internal verification. Judging evidence tables have been used efficiently to outline outcomes achieved by candidates.

03 ▸ Section 3: General comments

Most centres have made reference to support materials and have ensured that they have done so to good effect. Assessment approaches and judgements were therefore in line with national standards.

NQ Verification 2013–14 Key Messages Report

01 ▶ Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	**Gàidhlig**
Verification event/visiting information	**Event**
Date published:	**March 2014**

National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

H27C 75
H27D 75
H27E 75
H27C 74
H27D 74
H27E 74
H27F 74

02 ▶ Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

This round of external verification has provided further evidence that the approaches to assessment being implemented by centres across the country are appropriate. Most centres have used the Unit assessment support packages provided, but in several cases these have been slightly amended or adapted (wording of questions/texts/layout) to suit the centre's needs. This was done successfully and is to be commended.

It is important to note, however, that amendments should not alter the mandatory Assessment Standards included in the 'judging evidence' table and any amendments must be reflected in the exemplification column (fourth column) of the 'judging evidence' table where necessary. All centres submitted the appropriate tables, with slight amendments where necessary.

There were no prior-verified materials used, however we envisage centres introducing their own materials in the near future. When producing assessment materials centres must ensure that these assessments adhere closely to the *Unit Specifications* in order for them to be suitable.

Assessment judgements

Assessment judgements were generally very good, with good practice demonstrated especially by centres who implemented a strong internal verification strategy. In a subject such as Gàidhlig, where there is a relatively small number of centres (and departments within centres), internal verification can be difficult. Some centres have overcome this issue by linking up with other centres to good effect to implement internal verification. 'Judging evidence' tables have been used efficiently to outline the Outcomes achieved by candidates.

For assessment of reading and listening, candidates do not have to answer every question correctly as they could demonstrate achievement of the Assessment Standards across several questions. However, in order for candidates to successfully achieve the Assessment Standards, it is not adequate for them only to successfully respond to one of many questions. For example, if there are a number of questions allocated to Assessment Standard 1.1, the candidate must successfully answer a suitable number of these questions in order to successfully achieve the Assessment Standard. In this situation, assessors should use professional judgement and a holistic approach to decide whether candidates have achieved the Assessment Standards.

03 ▶ Section 3: General comments

Most centres have made reference to support materials and have ensured that they have done so to good effect. Assessment approaches and judgements were therefore in line with national standards. All centres must make use of internal verification where possible.

It is good practice to submit individual candidate assessment records which have been completed to clearly convey assessors' decisions/judgements and the reasons for these.

Some centres have developed answer papers for candidates by increasing the spacing of the questions in the tasks in the original Unit assessment support packages. This is good practice and supports candidates to achieve their potential.

Centres should ensure that approaches to assessment and making assessment judgements are consistent throughout departments.

NQ Verification 2013–14
Key Messages Round 3

01 ## Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Gàidhlig
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2014

National Courses/Units/Awards verified:

National 5 Gàidhlig Internally-assessed Course Component: Talk
National 4 Gàidhlig Added Value Unit

02 ## Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

This round of external verification has suggested further that the approaches to assessment being implemented by centres across the country are appropriate. All centres have used the Unit assessment support packs provided.

Assessment judgements

Centres should be confident in awarding high marks to candidates who deserve these. The assessment is marked out of 30, and if a candidate's performance is worthy of this, then they should be allocated these marks.

Centres should ensure that they submit documentation for each piece of evidence, clearly demonstrating how assessment judgements are made and clearly indicating the overall outcome of Pass or Fail, eg an assessment outcome record/commentary/checklist for each candidate.

Detailed commentaries about each candidate's performance are very useful to the nominee verifier. However, it is acknowledged that this approach can be time-

consuming. Therefore, a detailed checklist for each candidate's performance can be just as useful, and more practical. This could be used as effective feedback to the candidates.

03 ▸ **Section 3: General comments**

Candidates benefit from the opportunity to participate in, and sustain, a natural and wide-ranging conversation. In order to do this the interlocutor is encouraged to use a range of open-ended questions. Candidates do not benefit from being over-prepared, or giving extended monologues, as this is detrimental to a natural dialogue between the candidate and the interlocutor. All centres must make use of internal verification where possible.

It is good practice to submit individual candidate assessment records which have been completed in ways which clearly convey assessors' decisions/judgements and the reasons for these.

Audio recordings must be submitted along with any other materials in order for the verification process to be detailed and accurate.