



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Message Reports

Verification group name:	People and Society
Levels	N3 and N4
Date published:	October 2016

This Report combines all Verification Key Messages for the academic session 2015-2016.



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification event/visiting information	Event and Visiting
Date published:	March 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

H249 73	National 3	Investigating Skills
H24B 73	National 3	Making Decisions
H249 74	National 4	Investigating Skills

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ Most centres created their own assessments, which were of a good standard.
- ◆ Some excellent examples were seen of centres providing a layout for the write-up of the Investigating Skills Unit. This guided candidates to give all that was needed to achieve each Assessment Standard.
- ◆ Centres that provided their internal verification policy and completed checklists for the Unit assessments allowed verifiers to check assessment approaches more easily.

Action points

- ◆ When centres are using a Unit support assessment packages, they should adapt the judging the evidence table to their topic/issue by giving suggested answers which they deem suitable.

- ◆ If you are unsure about internal verification procedures, the Internal Verification Toolkit on SQA's 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:

- ◆ Most centres judged the evidence in relation to the appropriate Assessment Standard.
- ◆ When a layout was given to candidates for the Investigating Skills Unit, assessors were able to make and show clear judgements, allowing verifiers to judge the centre's assessment judgements more easily.
- ◆ 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 judgement it had about the candidate.
- ◆ Assessors indicating where the candidate has achieved the Assessment Standard on the candidate's work allowed verifiers to see assessment judgements more easily.
- ◆ Cross-marking of candidates' work helped to ensure assessment judgement decisions were more reliable.

Action points

- ◆ For verifiers to be able to verify the centre's assessment judgements, assessors should indicate on candidate evidence where the 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 included in each candidate's evidence.

03

Section 3: General comments

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

- ◆ Round 1 of verification is for Unit assessments at National 3 and National 4 and Round 2 of verification is for the Added Value Unit.
- ◆ Advise candidates 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.



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

H24C 74 National 4 Added value unit

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ For the National 4 added value assignment, centres had allowed candidates personalisation and choice in their topic and in their method and structure of presenting their information, which was good to see.
- ◆ Centres are making good use of the candidate instructions for the National 4 added value unit to support candidates to plan and structure their write-up. These instructions are available on SQA's secure website.
- ◆ Candidates seem more able to apply the skills of making a decision or comparing and contrasting (assessment standard 1.5) where they have formed a question within their topic or issue rather than just a general topic or issue.

Action points:

- ◆ Centres should encourage candidates to reference the two sources they have chosen to use in their write-up.
- ◆ Candidates should be made aware that they must describe and briefly explain the topic or issue in order to achieve assessment standard 1.4.

- ◆ Centres should be careful not to over-assess in the added value unit by asking candidates to compare and contrast as well as make a decision for assessment standard 1.5.
- ◆ Centres should advise candidates that they should not just 'copy and paste' information straight from their sources, including work in their jotter, but instead put it into their own words.

Assessment judgements

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ Most centres are making assessment judgements in line with national standards.
- ◆ Marking where an assessment standard has been achieved on candidate evidence allows candidates and verifiers to identify assessment judgements more easily.
- ◆ Where a verbal discussion had taken place with a candidate to check their understanding of an assessment standard, an indication on the candidate's evidence of the questions that were used by the assessor as well as the answers given by the candidate, allowed the verification team to understand the assessment judgement that had been made.

Action points:

It would be helpful for candidates and verifiers, if centres indicated on the candidate's evidence where description and explanation has been given in relation to assessment standard 1.4. This could be done by simply using 'D' and 'E'.

03

Section 3: General comments

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

Round 1 of verification is for unit assessments at National 3 and National 4, and round 2 of verification is for the added value unit.

Please check you are using the latest version of the unit assessment support packages.

When using a unit assessment support package, centres should adapt the judging the evidence table to their topic/issue by giving suggested answers that they deem suitable of a pass.

The Internal Verification Toolkit on SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit) provides useful guidance.