



NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Message Reports

Verification group name:	Philosophy
Levels	N5 and Higher
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:	Philosophy
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	March 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

H24J 75	National 5	Arguments in Action
H24K 75	National 5	Knowledge and Doubt
H24M 75	National 5	Moral Philosophy
H24J 76	Higher	Arguments in Action
H24K 76	Higher	Knowledge and Doubt
H24M 76	Higher	Moral Philosophy

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The majority of centres sent evidence from the Arguments in Action Unit as this is likely to be the first Unit attempted by candidates.

With only one exception, centres used unchanged Unit assessment support packs (UASPs) or UASPs with only very minor, and therefore no significant, changes.

The UASPs used were Package 1, the Unit-by-Unit approach to assessment.

There was evidence to suggest that assessments were being used, and so evidence was being gathered from summative tests rather than arising naturally out of the learning process.

Assessment judgements

Judgements were mainly in line with national standards.

Centre's whose judgements were not in line with national standards had only minor adjustments to make in order to be consistent with national standards.

All resubmissions were successful.

03

Section 3: General comments

Generally, centres have developed their own internal verification (IV) procedures which are robust and effective.

It seems that centres are continuing to 'test' candidates rather than 'gather evidence'.

All of the UASPs could be amended in a number of ways to make them more relevant for candidates in generating the required evidence.



NQ Verification 2015/16 Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Philosophy
Verification event/visiting information	Postal
Date published:	June 2016

National Courses/Units verified:

There was only a limited selection in this round of verification. All evidence was from the *Arguments in Action* Units — one at National 5 and the other at Higher.

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The evidence at Higher used a prior verified assessment while the National 5 candidate evidence was generated using a unit assessment support pack downloaded from SQA's secure site. Both assessments were based on a unit-by-unit approach.

The evidence was gathered from summative tests rather than arising naturally from the learning process.

Assessment judgements

The judgement of the candidate evidence for Higher Philosophy was in line with national standards.

The National 5 evidence contained many examples which met the required standard, however these were often overlooked.

Section 3: General comments

Please note that these comments relate to a sample of only two centres:

- ◆ Centres have developed their own internal verification procedures. These procedures varied in robustness and effectiveness.
- ◆ Centres are continuing to formally test candidates rather than gathering naturally occurring evidence.
- ◆ A more holistic approach to marking could help to ensure that candidate evidence was accurately assessed and that candidates were credited with achievements made.