NQ verification 2022–23 round 1

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	**Engineering Science**
Verification activity:	**Event**
Date published:	**April 2023**

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H23A 74	National 4	Engineering Contexts and Challenges
H23B 74	National 4	Electronics and Control
H23D 74	National 4	Mechanisms and Structures

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The majority of centres used SQA's unit assessment support packs, and that approach was 'accepted'.

Although centres can develop their own unit assessments, we strongly recommend that these are submitted to SQA for prior verification before use (unless it is an adaptation of an existing unit assessment support pack, and the changes are not significant). We also strongly recommend that centres use the judging evidence table for each unit, to ensure any adaptations or centre-devised material meet the requirements of each assessment standard.

Assessment judgements

A total of eight centres were verified for the National 4 units — the assessment judgements of three were 'not accepted'.

When making assessment judgements, it is not appropriate to apply a cut-off 'pass' score to candidates' responses. Instead the assessor must consider the responses of each candidate and make a judgement on whether the assessment standard has been met, or not.

Details on the requirements of assessment standards and guidance on assessing is contained in the 'Judging evidence' section of the National 4 unit assessment support packs. These are available on SQA's secure website.

Section 3: general comments

A number of centres submitted interim evidence for verification. Interim evidence must include assessment judgements for a majority of the assessment standards of the selected unit. This allows the external verifier to make informed decisions about whether the centre is assessing in-line with national standards. If a centre has assessed all assessment standards for a candidate, this must be marked as 'complete' (rather than 'interim'), regardless of any pending re-assessment. Guidance is available in the 'Interim evidence for unit verification' section of the Verification Submission Guidance (Units) document on SQA's website. Centres should follow this when submitting interim evidence.

Evidence of internal verification was inconsistent. While some examples of good practice were observed (such as clear, transparent processes), some centres provided evidence of internal verification that did not appear to have an impact on the final assessment judgements. External verification relies on agreeing a centre's assessment judgements and external verifiers must be able to identify what these are. As such, it is helpful to see the original assessor's judgement, the internal verifier's judgement and the final agreed judgement.

Centres should refer to the National Qualifications Internal Verification Toolkit for further guidance.