



NQ Verification 2021–22 Round 1

Qualification Verification Summary Report

01 Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Environmental Science
Verification event/visiting information	Event
Date published:	June 2022

National Courses/Units verified:

H24P 73	National 3	Living Environment
H24P 74	National 4	Living Environment

02 Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Only round 1 of verification took place this year. All centres had chosen to use the published SQA unit assessment support packs (UASPs). Some centres made minor adjustments to the marking instructions, which is to be encouraged.

You are reminded to use the most up-to-date versions of assessments, which were published on the SQA secure site in 2018.

Assessment judgements

Rigorous, accurate and consistent application of the marking instructions is essential. Some centres were not consistent in their application of the marking instructions, which is not acceptable. The marking guidance is not meant to be exhaustive, and centres are encouraged to annotate any minor changes they make to the marking instructions. If a candidate uses correct alternative answers, these should be marked as correct. Remember, however, that any changes made to the marking instructions must be scientifically correct, and at an appropriate level.

Generally, centres had applied the marking instructions accurately and consistently. However, some centres were judged to have been severe in their judgements, particularly at National 3. Centres are reminded to make sure they are marking at the correct level.

Centres should be aware that the answer must be scientifically correct. If a candidate uses a chemical symbol, it must represent the correct chemical. Co_2 or $\text{Co}2$ are not acceptable as alternatives to CO_2 , as the symbol Co is the chemical symbol for cobalt, not carbon dioxide. When used, the numbers in a chemical symbol should be subscripted.

Where a marker and an internal verifier differ in their decisions, the final decision made must be clearly shown. Most centres did this.

Internal verification was generally good. There was a high level of annotation showing that internal verification was rigorous.

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Section 3: General comments

Centres should confirm at the start of the year that they are using the most up-to-date assessments, if they are using the unit assessment support packs.

There is no need to internally verify all evidence. An appropriate sample can be verified.

It is essential that both the initial assessor and the internal verifier are aware of the level of answer expected for each level of qualification, and that both are aware that the marking guidance is not meant to be exhaustive and can be amended by the centre, so long as the marking instructions are annotated to show any amendments.