



Qualification Verification Summary Report

NQ Verification 2019–20

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Section 1: Verification group information

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|---|--------------------|
| Verification group name: | People and Society |
| Verification event/visiting information | Event |
| Date published: | July 2020 |

National Courses/Units verified:

| | | |
|---------|------------|---------------------------|
| H24A 73 | National 3 | Comparing and Contrasting |
| H24B 73 | National 3 | Making Decisions |
| H249 73 | National 3 | Investigating Skills |
| H24A 74 | National 4 | Comparing and Contrasting |
| H24B 74 | National 4 | Making Decisions |
| H249 74 | National 4 | Investigating Skills |
| H24C 74 | National 4 | Assignment |

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Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed in many centres:

- ◆ Creating their own assessments which suit the needs of their candidates and are in line with the national standard.
- ◆ Successfully adapting the unit assessment support packs (UASPs) for use with the topics/issues they deliver.
- ◆ Creating a work booklet to guide their candidates and document their progress through units.
- ◆ Providing their internal verification policy to show that assessment judgements had been quality assured.
- ◆ Including completed checklists for the unit assessments — these are very helpful for verifiers.

Action points:

- ◆ We recommend that centre-devised assessments are submitted for prior verification.
- ◆ If using a combined assessment, centres are reminded that this should be of an equal level of demand as delivery of a single unit. It will therefore have outcome 2 two or three times depending upon how many units are being assessed.
- ◆ Key ideas for assessment standard (AS) 2.3 must be chosen from the list on page 4 of the unit specification.
- ◆ If using a combined assessment for all three units, centres are reminded that there should be four different key ideas covered at National 3 and seven different key ideas covered at National 4. If only two units are being assessed, there will be three different key ideas covered at National 3 and five different key ideas covered at National 4.
- ◆ To achieve AS 1.1 in the Investigating Skills Unit, candidates are required to choose two sources of information. The assessment task, therefore, must not indicate which two sources of information candidates should use as this will not allow candidates to achieve this assessment standard.
- ◆ When centres are using an SQA unit assessment support pack, they should adapt column 4 in the judging the evidence table to match their topic/issue by including appropriate possible answers.
- ◆ Centres should take care to ensure that the command words used in an assessment are appropriate to the level of the assessment. For example, at National 3 explanation is not required, therefore, the use of 'explain' as a command word at this level could result in the over-assessment of candidates.
- ◆ While different units may be submitted for different levels (that is National 3 and National 4), centres are reminded that the same unit should be submitted for one level for verification.
- ◆ The topic/issue chosen for a unit should be the same for both outcome 1 and outcome 2.
- ◆ Centres are reminded about the Internal Verification toolkit on the SQA website (www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit) which provides useful guidance.

Assessment judgements

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed in many centres:

- ◆ Assessment judgements were in line with the national standard.
- ◆ Indicating exactly where each AS had been achieved on a candidate's evidence allowed verifiers to see assessment judgements clearly.
- ◆ Indicating the two descriptions, or two explanations required for outcome 2 with the AS number twice allowed verifiers to see the assessment judgements clearly.

- ◆ Indicating which key ideas had been chosen by identifying them in the margin of the candidate's evidence.
- ◆ Cross-marking of candidate's work helped to ensure assessment judgement decisions were more reliable.

In addition:

One centre gave detailed notes of verbal discussions used to check a candidate's understanding of an assessment standard. This allowed the verification team to see why the centre had made a particular decision.

Action points:

- ◆ The purpose of verification is to quality assure a centre's assessment judgements. Submitting unmarked candidate evidence is likely to result in a 'not accepted' outcome since it is not possible to verify the centre's assessment judgements in this situation.
- ◆ It is important that assessors mark where the candidate has achieved each assessment standard on each candidate's evidence to allow verifiers to verify a centre's assessment judgements.
- ◆ On the Verification Sample Form, centres should identify their judgement (pass or fail) and the level of work submitted by the candidate.
- ◆ For all units, except the N4 Assignment, AS2.3 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 shown in each candidate's answers and assessors should mark each key idea separately.
- ◆ To carry out their role, verifiers need to see the candidate evidence so that they can verify the centre's assessment judgements. Therefore, if the evidence that an assessment standard has been achieved exists in a candidate's jotter or in a presentation, then a copy of this evidence along with the assessor's judgement must be submitted.
- ◆ Internal verification processes should be put in place to ensure that the advice in the judging evidence table is applied consistently when more than one teacher is assessing the unit/course.

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Section 3: General comments

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

- ◆ Centres must submit their completed Verification Sample Form, the assessment approach used by the assessor and candidate, assessment judgements, and an adapted judging the evidence table showing how assessment judgements were made
- ◆ Centres should include information on internal quality assurance and verification procedures

- ◆ At least one full outcome, and all the assessment standards within it, must be attempted by candidates to provide a reasonable sample to enable verification to take place.
- ◆ Centres must ensure that the evidence presented by candidates is their own work and should not accept evidence which has been copied and pasted or plagiarised.
- ◆ For National 4 Investigating Skills AS1.2, two sources of information of different types must be used — for example, the same website cannot be used twice.