



NQ verification 2022–23 round 2

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Italian
Verification activity:	Event
Date published:	June 2023

National Course components verified

Course code	Course level	Course title
C842 75	National 5	Italian: performance–talking
C842 76	Higher	Italian: performance–talking

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

At both levels, all centres selected for verification used the Modern Languages performance–talking coursework assessment task effectively to assess their candidates. Verifiers noted that the quality of the performances sampled at both levels was very good.

Most topics candidates selected provided opportunities for them to demonstrate a range of structures, vocabulary and tenses appropriate to each level and access the higher pegged marks available.

At National 5, presentations were well-organised with appropriate content. Assessors were supportive of their candidates and prompted at appropriate points during the conversation where hesitation occurred. Some performances were characterised by good use of interjections and connectors.

At National 5 (conversation) and Higher (discussion), many assessors used open-ended questions effectively, giving candidates the opportunity to use detailed or detailed and complex language. Assessors should avoid the repeated use of closed questions and ensure candidates have some thinking time to produce their responses. If candidates ask assessors

questions during the discussion, assessors must avoid monopolising the discussion with their responses.

Assessment judgements

Most centres used the marking instructions for National 5 and Higher performance–talking appropriately and in line with national standards.

Most candidates performed to a very high level.

Some weaker performances highlighted problems with grammatical accuracy and with intonation and pronunciation.

A number of native speaker candidates are often presented for Italian. While most of these candidates complete the task with ease, assessors should take care to ensure that the assessment task is carried out in the same way as it would be for non-native speakers. In particular, the assessor should ensure that the candidate has sufficient opportunities to express a wide range of ideas and opinions, and to demonstrate detailed or detailed and complex language.

Centres are reminded:

- ◆ performances may be uneven and to expect some variation in the quality of performance, including within each pegged mark in the marking instructions
- ◆ when marking the performance–talking, all four performance aspects should be considered: content, accuracy, language resource and interaction (conversation only at National 5)
- ◆ performances should be marked positively and holistically, and do not have to be perfect to be awarded the highest marks
- ◆ to refer to the general marking principles as well as the detailed marking instructions in the [National 5](#) and [Higher](#) course specifications
- ◆ to refer to the performance–talking exemplars for National 5 and Higher Italian on SQA's secure website

Section 3: general comments

Most centres provided commentaries in relation to how decisions regarding marks were reached. These were very useful to verifiers.

Most centres produced sample materials, which were well-organised and showed evidence of internal verification. It is always useful in the external verification process when centres include the reasons why a candidate was awarded one pegged mark rather than another for any section of the performance–talking.