



NQ Mathematics Qualification

Verification Summary Report 2024–25

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Mathematics
Verification activity:	Event
Round:	1
Date published:	April 2025

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H225 73	National 3	Numeracy
HV80 73	National 3	Applications of Mathematics: Shape, Space and Measures
HV7Y 73	National 3	Applications of Mathematics: Manage Money and Data
H225 74	National 4	Numeracy
H22G 74	National 4	Mathematics: Relationships
H22F 74	National 4	Mathematics: Expressions and Formulae
HV7V 74	National 4	Applications of Mathematics: Managing Finance and Statistics
HV7W 74	National 4	Applications of Mathematics: Geometry and Measures
HV7X 74	National 4	Applications of Mathematics Test (National 4)
H22H 74	National 4	Mathematics: Test (National 4)

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Most centres used SQA unit assessment support (UAS) packs (unit-by-unit approach) to assess Mathematics and Applications of Mathematics units. Centres using the SQA UAS packs must use the most up-to-date versions from SQA's secure website. Centres must store unit assessments securely.

If centres devise their own assessments or adapt existing SQA UAS packs, they must ensure that these assessments meet the standards set out in the appropriate UAS pack. Centres must also use a reliable method for judging evidence.

Centres should not assess candidates until considerable learning and teaching has taken place.

Centres should gather evidence for all outcomes and assessment standards before making judgements about achievement of outcomes or units. For more information, refer to [Developing Unit Assessments for National Units](#).

Centres that devise their own unit assessments, or significantly change SQA's UAS packs, can use SQA's free prior-verification service. The service gives centres additional confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards. The [NQ prior verification](#) section of SQA's website has more information.

Assessment judgements

Most centres made reliable assessment judgements.

Most centres used thresholds rather than judging assessment standards individually.

Thresholds are set as follows:

- Mathematics units:
 - 60% for outcomes 1 and 2 combined.
- Applications of Mathematics and Numeracy units
 - 60% for outcome 1 and 60% for outcome 2. Each outcome requires a separate judgement.

If a candidate does not reach the threshold for an outcome or a unit, they could achieve the outcome or unit if they pass the assessment standards individually.

Centres should use the approach that benefits their candidates most. This might mean using different approaches for candidates in the same class. Doing this can help reduce re-assessment.

Unit hierarchy

Numeracy

The Numeracy units are in a hierarchy. Centres can use candidate evidence relating to a higher-level Numeracy unit to demonstrate their achievement in a lower-level Numeracy unit.

Using National 4 units as evidence for National 3 Applications of Mathematics

If a candidate passes all the National 4 Mathematics units or all the National 4 Applications of Mathematics units apart from the added value unit, they have enough evidence for a course award in National 3 Applications of Mathematics.

Centres must enter candidates for the National 3 Applications of Mathematics course for them to receive the award. The three unit passes at National 4 would also appear on the candidate's Scottish Qualifications Certificate, if the centre enters the candidate for these units.

Using freestanding units at SCQF level 5 as evidence for National 4

Applications of Mathematics

- Achievement of the Geometry and Measures (SCQF level 5) unit can also provide evidence of achievement of the Geometry and Measures (National 4) unit.
- Achievement of the Managing Finance and Statistics (SCQF level 5) unit can also provide evidence of achievement of the Managing Finance and Statistics (National 4) unit.

To achieve a course award in National 4 Applications of Mathematics, candidates must also achieve the Numeracy unit and the added value unit.

Mathematics

Expressions and Formulae (National 4) unit:

- Achievement of assessment standard 1.1 can also provide evidence of achievement of assessment standards 1.2 and 1.4 from the Expressions and Formulae (SCQF level 5) unit.
- Achievement of assessment standard 1.2 can also provide evidence of achievement of assessment standard 1.4 from the Expressions and Formulae (SCQF level 5) unit.
- Achievement of assessment standard 1.3 can also provide evidence of achievement of assessment standard 1.4 from the Applications (SCQF level 5) unit.

Relationships (National 4) unit:

- Achievement of assessment standard 1.1 can also provide evidence of achievement of assessment standard 1.1 from the Relationships (SCQF level 5) unit.
- Achievement of assessment standard 1.2 can also provide evidence of achievement of assessment standard 1.4 from the Relationships (SCQF level 5) unit.
- Achievement of assessment standard 1.3 can also provide evidence of achievement of assessment standard 1.1 from the Applications (SCQF level 5) unit.
- Achievement of assessment standard 1.4 can also provide evidence of achievement of assessment standard 1.4 from the Applications (SCQF level 5) unit.

To achieve the freestanding units, candidates must also achieve assessment standards 2.1 and 2.2.

Achieving all three freestanding units at SCQF level 5 demonstrates achievement of the Expressions and Formulae (National 4) unit and the Relationships (National 4) unit.

To achieve a course award in National 4 Mathematics, candidates must also achieve the Numeracy unit and the added value unit.

Centres must enter candidates for the National 4 Mathematics course for them to receive an award. The three unit passes at SCQF level 5 would also appear on the candidate's Scottish Qualifications Certificate, if the centre enters the candidate for these units.

Section 3: general comments

Assessors can ignore minor errors, like incorrectly rounded or truncated answers, if they do not prevent the candidate from demonstrating the mathematical skill being assessed.

If a candidate misses out on marks because they have incorrectly rounded an answer, they should not miss out on marks for incorrect rounding again in the same assessment. This does not apply where questions specifically request candidates to round their answers.

Assessors must follow through working subsequent to an error and award possible consequential marks, provided that the level of difficulty involved is approximately similar.

In general, where a question requires candidates to make a decision or give a reason, they do not need to make a direct numerical comparison. Candidates can use comparative language supported by appropriate working.

Candidates should not miss out on marks for omitting units unless this is specifically mentioned in the marking instructions. If candidates omit units on multiple occasions in an assessment, they should only miss out on marks for this once.

Most centres have effective systems for internal verification. In some cases, where the assessor and internal verifier disagreed, the final decision was not clear. The final decision should be clear on the candidate's script and noted in the record of achievement table.

Assessors should take care when recording marks on candidates' record of achievement tables. In some cases, centres did not record assessment judgements for outcomes and units accurately. This resulted in some candidates not being awarded the outcomes and units they had achieved. Centres should check and update these tables during internal verification.

In a few cases, the internal verification only confirmed the initial marking and was not effective in improving the reliability of the assessment judgements.

Further advice and guidance on internal verification can be found in SQA's Internal Verification Toolkit, available on [SQA's website](#).

Centres should use previous key messages and qualification verification summary reports (in the 'Verification and course reports' section of the [Mathematics](#) and [Applications of Mathematics](#) subject pages) and the [Mathematics Marking Guidance](#) to support reliable judgements.