NQ Mathematics and Applications of Mathematics Verification Summary 2025–26

Verification information

Subject	Applications of Mathematics and Mathematics
Verification activity	Event
Round	1
Date published	April 2026

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
H22F 74	National 4	Mathematics: Expressions and Formulae
H22G 74	National 4	Mathematics: Relationships
H22H 74	National 4	Mathematics: Test

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
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

Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

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

If centres devise their own assessments or adapt our existing 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 that devise their own unit assessments, or significantly change our UAS packs, can use our free prior-verification service. The service gives centres reassurance that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards. The National Qualifications prior verification section of our website has more information.

Assessors shouldn't administer unit assessments one or two questions at a time. They shouldn't assess candidates until considerable learning and teaching has taken place. Candidates should be able to demonstrate recall and strategy selection in unit assessments.

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

Assessment judgements

Most centres made reliable assessment judgements.

In Mathematics and Applications of Mathematics, 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:
  - Centres **must not** apply a single threshold to the complete unit. Each outcome requires a separate judgement. The thresholds are 60% for outcome 1 and 60% for outcome 2.

If a candidate doesn't reach the threshold for an outcome or a unit, they can 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 achieves 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 SCQF level 5 units 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 the National 4 Applications of Mathematics course award, candidates must also pass the Numeracy unit and the added value unit.

Mathematics

Centres can use candidate evidence for individual assessment standards from SCQF level 5 units as evidence for assessment standards in National 4 units, as shown in the table below.

National 4 assessment standard	Matched assessment standard from SCQF level 5 unit
Mathematics: Expressions and Formulae 1.1	Mathematics: Expressions and Formulae 1.2 and 1.4
Mathematics: Expressions and Formulae 1.2	Mathematics: Expressions and Formulae 1.4
Mathematics: Expressions and Formulae 1.3	Mathematics: Applications 1.4
Mathematics: Relationships 1.1	Mathematics: Relationships 1.1
Mathematics: Relationships 1.2	Mathematics: Relationships 1.4
Mathematics: Relationships 1.3	Mathematics: Applications 1.1
Mathematics: Relationships 1.4	Mathematics: Applications 1.4

To achieve the SCQF level 5 units, candidates must also achieve assessment standards 2.1 and 2.2.

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

To achieve the National 4 Mathematics course award, candidates must also pass 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.

Assessment standards 2.1 and 2.2 in SCQF level 5 units

Candidates must achieve assessment standards 2.1 and 2.2 in each SCQF level 5 unit. They can do this by reaching the 60% threshold or by passing the assessment standards individually.

General comments

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

If assessors don't award marks because a candidate incorrectly rounds an answer, they should still award marks if the candidate makes another rounding error in the same assessment. This doesn't apply where questions specifically request that candidates round their answers.

Assessors must check working subsequent to an error and award follow-through marks where appropriate, provided the level of difficulty involved is approximately similar.

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

Candidates can still gain marks if they omit units unless the marking instructions specifically state that they can't. If candidates omit units more than once in an assessment, they should still gain marks despite any repeated omission of units.

Most centres have effective systems for internal verification. In some cases, where the assessor and internal verifier disagreed, the final decision was unclear. 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 didn't record assessment judgements for outcomes and units accurately. This resulted in some candidates missing out on 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 wasn't effective in improving reliability of the assessment judgements.

You can find guidance about internal verification in our NQ internal verification toolkit.

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.