

NQ People and Society Verification Summary 2025–26

Verification information

Subject	People and Society
Verification activity	Event
Round	1
Date published	July 2026

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H249 73	National 3	People and Society: Investigating Skills
H24A 73	National 3	People and Society: Comparing and Contrasting
H24B 73	National 3	People and Society: Making Decisions
H249 74	National 4	People and Society: Investigating Skills
H24A 74	National 4	People and Society: Comparing and Contrasting
H24B 74	National 4	People and Society: Making Decisions

Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Centres demonstrated the following examples of good practice:

- Some centres provided good scaffolding for candidates to follow.
- This year, a larger number of centres provided a range of topics and explored new ideas by adapting the resources on our web pages.
- A number of centres gave candidates opportunities for personalisation and choice within the focus of their unit.
- Many centres adapted our unit assessment support packs to the topics or issues candidates had studied and provided appropriate judging evidence tables.
- Some centres created a work booklet to guide and document candidate progress through units — this is a supportive approach to assist candidates in achieving outcomes.
- Some centres provided their internal verification policy and completed checklists for the unit assessments, which allowed verifiers to check assessment approaches easily.

Action points

Understanding and applying key ideas

Some centres confused the key idea of ‘belief’ (a noun) with ‘believing’ (a verb). This is a common grammatical error, and usually belief is tied into a belief system (for example, a religion).

Centres must ensure that key ideas are chosen from the list on page 4 of each unit specification. Candidates must be assessed using the specified key ideas — others may not be used.

Prior verification service

This year, a significant number of centres used centre-devised assessments without prior verification that were ‘not accepted’. When adapting one of our unit assessment support packs, centres must also adapt the judging evidence table to include

possible answers that meet the assessment standard(s) in relation to the topic or issue.

If centres wish to devise their own assessments or significantly adapt a unit assessment support pack, we provide a free prior verification service. We recommend that centres make use of this service to ensure the validity of the assessment approach. Information on this service is available on our [website](#).

Assessment judgements

Centres demonstrated the following examples of good practice:

- This year, an increased number of assessors marked exactly where candidates achieved each assessment standard on candidates' work, which allowed verifiers to identify assessment judgements.
- Some centres identified which key ideas were chosen by the candidate and made this clear in the margins of candidate evidence, which was useful for verifiers in quality assuring assessment judgements.
- A few centres cross-marked candidates' work, which helped to ensure that assessment judgement decisions were more reliable.

Action points

Applying assessment standards

Some centres did not recognise that for some assessment standards, candidates have to demonstrate the skill or knowledge more than once, for example where an assessment standard requires two descriptions or two explanations. Centres must ensure they correctly apply the judging evidence table they are using.

Some centres awarded multiple assessment standards to one simple, brief statement. This does not meet national standards.

Annotating candidate evidence

Assessors must mark where the candidate has achieved each assessment standard on each candidate's evidence to allow verifiers to verify centres' assessment judgements. Verifiers are responsible for assessing centre assessment judgements and do not mark candidate evidence.

A number of centres awarded assessment standard 2.3 (key ideas) where the candidate had written them. The assessment standard requires candidates to show knowledge and understanding of the key ideas, not the ability to identify them or define them in isolation.

When verbal remediation takes place to establish a candidate's understanding of an assessment standard, the questions asked by the assessor and the candidate's responses must be recorded on the candidate evidence. This allows the verification team to verify any judgements made by the centre based on the content of these discussions.

General comments

Centre quality assurance

Some centres demonstrated highly effective verification processes. An example of this good practice is providing a detailed note of how centres arrived at their judgements.

Some centres did not provide evidence of verification and/or their internal verification policy. This is a requirement, as noted in the 'Verification Submission Guidance (Units)' document. You can find guidance about internal verification in our [NQ internal verification toolkit](#).

Where centres have identified in their internal verification policy that they have used cross-marking or blind-marking for quality assurance, this should be evident. Two signatures on candidate evidence or candidate assessment records is not sufficient evidence of the process centres have undertaken.

Candidates incorrectly presented

We observed that some candidates were presented at National 4 level who should have been presented for National 3.

Annotating candidate work

Fewer centres submitted candidate work that was unmarked this year, which was encouraging. The purpose of verification is to review a centre's assessment and determine whether their approach to assessment and their assessment judgements are in line with the national standard. It is not the role of verifiers to assess candidates' work.

Plagiarism

Centres must ensure that the evidence presented by candidates is their own work and should not accept evidence that candidates have copied and pasted or plagiarised. Candidates unable to write in their own words will not meet the national standard.

NQ People and Society Verification Summary 2025–26

Verification information

Subject	People and Society
Verification activity	Event
Round	2
Date published	July 2026

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H24C 74	National 4	People and Society Assignment

Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Almost all centres used the unit assessment support pack on our secure site to assess candidates.

If centres choose not to use this pack, they must ensure that the assessment approach allows candidates to achieve all assessment standards. Centres must provide a judging evidence table during verification to demonstrate how they make assessment judgements for each assessment standard.

Some centres used added value units from other National Qualifications that did not always cover the assessment standards for the National 4 People and Society added value unit, for example, asking candidates to justify their choice of sources.

Assessment judgements

Assessment judgements were mostly in line with national standards. We observed the following issues during verification:

- Assessment standard 1.1 requires candidates to choose a topic or issue but in a few centres, all candidates completed the same topic. Candidate choice must be evident in centre submissions.
- Candidates select their topic or issue from the key ideas. Most centres did not require candidates to identify the key idea chosen, however, to meet assessment standard 1.1, candidates must identify the key idea they have chosen to base their assignment on.
- Assessment standard 1.2 requires candidates to collect evidence from at least two sources of different types. Some centres did not provide evidence of the collected material and merely provided the names and/or URL of the sources, which is not sufficient to achieve this assessment standard. Submissions need to include examples of the collected evidence, for example by including a copy of candidates' notes.
- Assessment standard 1.3 requires candidates to organise and use the collected information. Some centres awarded this assessment standard for simply collecting information with no evidence that candidates organised the information.
- Assessment standard 1.4 requires candidates to describe and briefly explain the key features in two separate places in the assignment. Some centres did not identify where candidates described and where they explained explicitly. A few centres awarded the assessment standard when candidates had given no explanation. A few centres awarded the assessment standard where candidates had collected information and not in the candidate's assessment.
- Assessment standard 1.5 requires candidates to make a decision or to compare and contrast. In some centres, candidates used topic headings that made it

difficult for them to achieve this assessment standard. Providing a summary of their findings is not 'making a decision' or 'comparing and contrasting'.

General comments

Centre submissions included assessment tasks and assessment judgements that were of a higher standard than in previous years, however, we observed the following issues:

- We remind centres that round 2 of verification is for the added value unit only and not for any other People and Society units.
- The role of the verification team is to verify the assessment approach and the assessment judgements, therefore centres must submit the assessment task, judging evidence table, and all candidate evidence for all assessment standards. Centres must clearly annotate where the candidate has achieved the assessment standard (usually a phrase or sentence) and not at the end of a paragraph or bottom of a slide.
- Some centres did not provide evidence that they followed the centre verification policy they provided. This is a requirement for every Qualifications Scotland approved centre.
- The National 3 — National 4 People and Society webinar on unit assessment provides further support and guidance and is published on the People and Society web page on the Understanding Standards section of our secure site.