



NQ verification 2022–23 round 1

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification activity:	Event
Date published:	May 2023

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H249 73	level 3	People and Society: Investigating Skills
H6NC 73	level 3	People and Society: Investigating Skills with a Scottish Context
H24A 73	level 3	People and Society: Comparing and Contrasting
H6ND 73	level 3	People and Society: Comparing and Contrasting with a Scottish Context
H24B 73	level 3	People and Society: Making Decisions
H6NE 73	level 3	People and Society: Making Decisions with a Scottish Context
H249 74	level 4	People and Society: Investigating Skills
H6NC 74	level 4	People and Society: Investigating Skills with a Scottish Context
H24A 74	level 4	People and Society: Comparing and Contrasting
H6ND 74	level 4	People and Society: Comparing and Contrasting with a Scottish Context
H24B 74	level 4	People and Society: Making Decisions
H6NE 74	level 4	People and Society: Making Decisions with a Scottish Context

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ local case studies were used by centres with a number of centres using a local focus, for example witchcraft and create a castle
- ◆ some centres have created their own assessments, which are of a good standard

- ◆ many centres have adapted the unit assessment support packs to the topics or issues they have studied and provided appropriate judging evidence tables
- ◆ some centres have created a work booklet to guide and document candidate progress through units — this is a supportive approach to assist candidates in achieving the outcomes
- ◆ some centres provided their internal verification policy and completed checklists for the unit assessments, which allowed verifiers to check assessment approaches more easily

Action points

As in previous years, centres are advised to submit centre-devised unit assessments to SQA for prior verification. These assessments must include a judging evidence table (see below). This year there were a large number of centres using centre-devised assessments without prior verification.

When adapting an SQA unit assessment support pack, the judging evidence table should also be adapted to include possible answers that meet the assessment standard(s) in relation to their topic or issue.

Assessment command words should be appropriate to the level of the assessment. For example, at National 3 ‘explain’ is not needed and could result in the over-assessing of candidates.

Key ideas should be chosen from the list on page 4 of the unit specification. Candidates must be assessed using the specified key ideas — it is not a free choice.

Some centres did not provide evidence of verification and/or their internal verification policy for their centre. The [internal verification toolkit](#) on SQA’s website gives meaningful guidance and references.

Assessment judgements

During verification the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ in a few centres, assessors marked exactly where the candidate had achieved each assessment standard on the candidate’s work, which allowed verifiers to identify assessment judgements
- ◆ some centres identified which key ideas had been chosen by the candidate and made this clear in the margins of the candidate’s evidence, which was useful for verifiers in quality assuring assessment judgements
- ◆ a few centres cross-marked the candidates’ work, which helped to ensure that assessment judgement decisions were more reliable

Action points

Centre 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 the candidate evidence.

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

Where centre staff have cross-marked candidate evidence (and disagreed with an assessment judgement) they should include information on why final decisions have been made and not simply state 'agreed'.

Section 3: general comments

Centres must ensure that the evidence presented by candidates is their own work and should not accept evidence that has been copied and pasted or plagiarised.

A number of centres submitted candidate work that was unmarked. 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.

Centres are only required to submit one unit for verification purposes. Some centres submitted three units for this round of verification.

Where interim evidence is submitted, centres must have made sufficient assessment judgements to allow verifiers to make informed decisions about whether the centre's assessment judgements are in line with national standards. Insufficient evidence is likely to result in a 'not accepted' outcome. Further guidance can be found in [Verification submission guidance](#), which is available on SQA's website.