NQ People and Society Qualification Verification Summary Report 2024–25

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification activity:	Event
Round:	1
Date published:	July 2025

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

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

During verification, centres demonstrated the following examples of good practice:

- Most centres provided a range of topics and explored new ideas through adapting the current examples in SQA unit assessment support packs.
- Where centres created their own assessments, many were of a good standard and many provided appropriate judging evidence tables.
- Centres used local case studies, with a number using a local focus, for example investigating their own local area, which clearly engaged candidates.
- Some centres 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. This year a large number of centres used centre-devised assessments without prior verification.

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

Key ideas should be chosen from the list on page 4 of the unit specification. Candidates must be assessed in relation to key ideas from this specified list — 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 advice on how best to carry out this procedure. The process must be evidenced as many centres have only provided the general policy.

Assessment judgements

During verification, centres demonstrated the following examples of good practice:

- There was a noticeable increase in the number of centres where the assessors marked exactly where the candidate achieved each assessment standard on the candidate's work, which allowed verifiers to identify assessment judgements.
- Most 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.
- Where a small number of centres cross-marked the candidates' work, this helped to ensure that assessment judgement decisions were more reliable.

Action points

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

Due to the limited evidence given, where centres identified in their centre verification policy that cross-marking or blind marking was used for quality assurance, this must be evident. Two signatures on the candidate evidence or the candidate assessment record is not sufficient evidence of the process that has been undertaken. Evidence of discussions between the assessor and the internal verifier should be included. Some centres use candidate assessment records to do this.

On candidate evidence, centre assessors must make clear where each candidate has achieved each assessment standard. This enables verifiers to identify and verify centres' assessment judgements. The role of external verifiers is to verify centre assessment judgements; it is not their role to assess candidate evidence. A number of centres did not seem to recognise that for some assessment standards the candidates have to demonstrate the skill or knowledge more than once.

Centre staff must apply the information from the relevant judging evidence table when making assessment judgements.

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 assessment judgement made by the centre, based on the content of these discussions.

Section 3: general comments

It is essential that centre staff have full access to all SQA materials available for the course and units. This includes the exemplification materials and unit assessment support packs available on SQA's secure site.

A very small number of centres submitted candidate evidence that was unmarked. The purpose of external verification is to review a centre's assessment evidence and determine if their approach to assessment and their assessment judgements are in line with the national standard. If the candidate evidence has not been marked by a centre, it is not possible for external verifiers to verify the centre's assessment judgements.

Centres are only required to submit one unit for verification purposes. Some centres submitted three units for this round of verification. A small number of centres submitted candidates' added value unit and this is verified in round 2.

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.

NQ People and Society Qualification Verification Summary Report 2024–25

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	People and Society
Verification activity:	Event
Round:	2
Date published:	July 2025

National Units verified

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

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Almost all centres used the unit assessment support pack published on SQA's secure site to assess candidates.

If centres choose not to use this pack, they must ensure that the assessment approach allows candidates the opportunity to achieve all assessment standards. Centres must provide a judging evidence table to exemplify how the centre's judgements will be made for each assessment standard.

Assessment judgements

Assessment judgements were largely in line with national standards. The following issues were noted:

- Assessment standard 1.2 requires candidates to collect evidence from at least two sources of different types. Some centres submitted candidate evidence that identified the two sources but did not include the collection of evidence. This is not sufficient to meet this assessment standard. The submission needs to show that candidates have collected evidence from two sources. This can be done, for example, by including a copy of a candidate's notes.
- Assessment standard 1.3 requires candidates to organise **and** use the collected information. Some centres have awarded this assessment standard for collecting information (1.2) with no evidence of 'organising the information'.
- Assessment standard 1.4 requires candidates to describe **and** briefly explain the key features. Some centres did not identify where the candidates described and where they explained. A few centres awarded the assessment standard when there was no evidence that the candidate had given an explanation. A small number of centres awarded assessment standard 1.4 where candidates had collected information and not in the candidates' presentations.
- 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.

Section 3: general comments

Centres' assessment approaches and assessment judgements were of a higher standard than in previous years. It is clear that many centres have taken on board the support given as a result of the verification process, however a few issues remain:

- Centres are reminded that round 2 of verification is for the added value unit only.
- Centres are reminded that the role of the verification team is to verify assessment approaches and assessment judgements. Therefore, if a centre chooses not to use an SQA unit assessment support pack, they must include the assessment task and a judging evidence table in their submission with their candidate evidence. The assessment judgements must be visible to the verification team. Good practice is to annotate candidate evidence where each assessment standard has been achieved (usually a phrase or sentence) rather than at the end of a paragraph or bottom of a slide.
- Many centres provided their internal verification policy, however, some centres did not include evidence that they had followed the policy provided. This is a requirement for every SQA approved centre.