



NQ verification 2023–24 round 2

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Photography
Verification activity:	Visit
Date published:	June 2024

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
J208 76	SCQF level 6	Photography: Image Making
J209 76	SCQF level 6	Photography: Contextual Imagery

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The team of visiting verifiers observed a range of good practice across most centres that participated in the external verification process. Observations and good practice are outlined in the comments below.

Both Image Making and Contextual Imagery units were presented for external verification.

Centres used the following unit assessment support packs:

- ◆ package 1: Unit by Unit approach
- ◆ package 2: Combined approach

Most centres used the unit assessment support packs effectively to deliver the units. Most centres used the SQA-generated assessment tasks to assess the work of their candidates.

Centres are reminded that SQA offers a prior verification service for centres that wish to adapt these assessment tasks or generate their own.

Candidate assessment evidence was generally very well-structured, demonstrating that centres have made appropriate use of Understanding Standards materials and exemplar unit assessments that SQA published.

Image Making — outcome 1

Candidate evidence for assessment standards 1.1 was generally very good. However, in some instances, the candidate evidence for assessment standard 1.2 did not meet the national standard. This assessment standard requires candidates to discuss the specific impact of the influences identified for assessment standard 1.1 on two pieces of work by two photographers. While candidates had attempted to do this in most cases, their comments were often unable to address this appropriately.

The general standard of evidence produced for assessment standard 1.3 was strong. Candidate responses included justified personal opinions on the work of their chosen photographers.

Image Making — outcome 2

Candidate evidence for this outcome was mostly of a very high standard and reflects the quality of learning and teaching that has taken place before the unit assessment.

Most centres presented evidence digitally for the purposes of external verification. A digital approach helps to minimise consumable costs for the units and encourages candidates to make better use of their time. Most centres effectively presented evidence in Word documents and PowerPoint presentations.

Most centres presented work across a selected range of styles and genres. The standard of technical skill continues to be inconsistent, with some candidates producing images that had issues with exposure and focus. The majority of candidate evidence for assessment standard 2.2 was strong.

Contextual Imagery — outcome 1

In centres that adopted the combined approach, candidates produced evidence of a much higher standard. Their work strongly linked to the work of their influential photographers in the Image Making unit. Styles and genres chosen were suitable and candidates were able to demonstrate appropriate technical skill and creativity.

Contextual Imagery — outcome 2

Evidence produced for outcome 2 was varied. Centres that adopted a standardised approach using both SQA and centre-devised pro formas ensured that candidates had an understanding of the requirements of the outcome.

Where centres did not use SQA devised proforma this was reflected in the quality of the evidence produced and as a result some candidates did not meet the requirements of assessment standard 2.3.

Assessment judgements

Most centres' assessment judgements were accurate, consistent and reliable, in line with the national standard.

Most centres recorded their assessment judgements clearly using either SQA-devised candidate assessment records, or an appropriately adapted version to suit an individual centre's approach. This is an important part of the assessment and verification process and helped streamline the verification process.

The majority of centres demonstrated clear evidence of effective internal verification procedures. In most cases, the centre's internal verification process identified inconsistencies in the assessor's judgements. Detailed records of assessor and internal verifier comments highlighted the effectiveness of these procedures. All centres offering SQA qualifications should have an effective internal quality assurance procedure in place. Further advice and guidance on internal verification can be found in SQA's [Internal Verification Toolkit](#), available on SQA's website.

Section 3: general comments

Centre staff engaged well with external verification.

Generally, candidate evidence and details of departmental learning and teaching were presented coherently, allowing the verification process to run smoothly.

There was strong evidence of candidate engagement.

Centre staff should be commended for developing effective resources to support learning and teaching. The overall high standard of candidate responses indicates the effectiveness of the learning and teaching that has taken place before the unit assessments. Centres that provided resources in the form of course handbooks, tutorials and workshops effectively supported candidate understanding of the subject both creatively and technically. Centres that provided lists of photographers to assist candidates with outcome 1 of Image Making were largely successful.

In the lead up to external verification this session, there was some confusion regarding what evidence is required for unit verification. The Image Making and Contextual Imagery units are standalone SCQF level 6 units. The NQ Verification team does not verify evidence for the Higher course assessment (project or question paper) or National Progression Awards (NPA).

Centres can continue to use units as a method of structuring their course. Centres that continue to offer these units will still be subject to external verification.

A course report will be published after the assessment diet, which will highlight more detail on the course assessment (project and question paper) for this session. This will be published in the course reports section of the [Higher Photography page](#).