



# Qualification Verification Summary Report

## NQ Verification 2019–20

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### Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	National 1 and National 2
Verification event/visiting information	Event/visiting
Date published:	July 2020

#### National Units verified:

##### National 1 Units

H47P 71	Food Preparation: Food Hygiene
H47S 71	Food Preparation: Using Small Electrical Equipment in the Kitchen
H6BE 71	Communication: Interacting in the Community
H6BJ 71	Communication: Recognising Signs in the Community
H6BW 71	Number Skills: Number Processes
H70B 71	Science in the Environment: Nature and the Environment
H70F 71	Practical Craft Skills: Working with Craft Tools
H47T 71	Food Preparation: Using a Cooker
HJ7X 71	Food Preparation: Baking (Alternative Context)
H476 71	Physical Education: Taking Part in a Water Based Activity
H478 71	Physical Education: Improving Performances
H47Y 71	Independent Living Skills: Common Dangers in the Home
H6BD 71	Communication: Recognising Text
H70P 71	ICT: Working with Assistive Technology

##### National 2 Units

H20B 72	Business in Practice: Taking part in a Business Enterprise
H20J 72	Business in Practice: Customer Care
H20N 72	Business in Practice: Using ICT in Business
H20T 72	ICT: ICT Applications
H21R 72	Lifeskills Mathematics: Number and Number Processes
H21T 72	Lifeskills Mathematics: Shape, Space and Data
H21V 72	Lifeskills Mathematics: Money
H21W 72	Lifeskills Mathematics: Time
H21Y 72	Lifeskills Mathematics: Measurement
H241 72	English and Communication: Understanding Language

H244 72	English and Communication: Creating Texts
H246 72	English and Communication: Listening and Talking
H24W 72	Physical Education: Taking Part in Physical Activities
H257 72	Food, Health and Wellbeing: Food Preparation
H259 72	Food, Health and Wellbeing: Food for Health
H25D 72	Practical Craft Skills: Working with Craft Tools
H25E 72	Practical Craft Skills: Working with Materials
H25F 72	Practical Craft Skills: Making a Craftwork Item
H26F 72	Social Subjects: Masking a Decision
H26H 72	Social Subjects: Organising and Communicating Information
H6SN 72	Social Subjects: Making a Contrast (in a Scottish Context)
H8LF 72	Employment Skills: Agriculture and Horticulture
H8MS 72	Religious and Moral Education: Investigating Morality

For National 1 and 2 qualifications, 29 centres were selected for the central verification event in February 2020 and a further 21 centres were selected for visiting verification. However, only four centres were visited and verified — the remaining 17 centre visits were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The assessment materials from all centres selected for verification were either ‘accepted’ or ‘accepted\*’ and there were no ‘not accepted’ decisions.

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## Section 2: Comments on assessment

### Assessment approaches

Most centres used the unit assessment support packs (UASPs) as their assessment tool for their National 2 candidates. These were generally used appropriately and generated the required type and amount of evidence for the outcomes and the associated assessment standards. This also means that there were relatively few problems concerning their approach to assessment. Some centres used centre-devised assessments with their National 2 candidates. These were often innovative and showed that centres acknowledged the importance of using a candidate’s usual mode of communication as well as personalisation and choice in their chosen curricular areas.

Most centres presenting candidates at National 1 used centre-devised assessments, which also included evidence of personalisation and choice. These assessments had been developed to address individual needs and used candidates’ own preferred means of communication to capture and evidence achievements. Assessment evidence at this level was also generated and gathered as it occurred naturally during learning and teaching situations, which is good practice.

However, there was evidence of a few centres over-assessing candidates and increasing the number of assessed tasks undertaken. It is important that candidates are entered at the correct level and the assessment standards are not adjusted or increased.

A few centres stated that a small number of National 2 candidates had difficulty achieving the required standard and deemed that those candidates had failed the unit. It should be noted that, with some extra practice, support and differentiation, candidates can be re-assessed in specific assessment tasks.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of assessment materials is still available if centres wish to devise their own assessments, which differ greatly from the published SQA assessment materials.

There was an increase in the number of centres using and submitting evidence linked to the unit's judging evidence tables and this is good practice. This helped link their activities and tasks to the assessments used.

There was also an increase in the use of candidate logs and candidate assessment records being used effectively. This gave further information on how the assessments had been undertaken and at times adapted, and how candidates had been supported and judged throughout the assessment process. The use of these record sheets greatly enhances the candidate evidence on assessment approaches.

All assessments at National 1 and 2 were generally well organised, well evidenced and of a high standard.

## **Assessment judgements**

Assessors and internal verifiers demonstrated a sound knowledge and understanding of the standards for National 1 and 2 qualifications. The assessment materials were relevant, well labelled and sometimes supplemented by photographic and video evidence. There was an increase this year in the amount of individualised and relevant assessor comments, candidate logs, candidate assessment records and professional judgement statements explaining how the assessment decisions had been reached. Almost every centres' judgements were reliable, fair and in line with national standards. However, in some cases, candidates exceeded the standard in several areas and centres should check that all candidates are entered at the correct level.

Due to the timing of the external verification events, some of the assessment evidence submitted will be complete and some may still be interim. An assessment judgement should be made for each submission and entered on the candidate flyleaf. Centres should decide if the work is deemed a pass or a fail, based on the work completed so far and the expected result on completion. Some centres indicated work was a fail because it was incomplete, or candidates did not pass one question. If a re-assessment is required for a specific question or task, then this can be carried out without having to re-assess all the work in the completed unit and the expected outcome result should be adjusted. If the assessor thinks the candidate will successfully complete a re-assessment, then the evidence should be graded as a pass.

There was evidence of good practice in many centres that gave detailed and appropriate feedback to candidates about the assessment judgements in a clear and simple format using a means that was understood by all.

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## Section 3: General comments

There was a significant increase in personalisation and choice regarding candidate choice of activity or theme and the method by which the candidates presented their findings using their normal mode of communication, which is encouraging.

Candidate evidence continues to be enhanced using photographs and video evidence. Including outcomes and assessment standard numbers makes the external verification process more effective when it clearly shows which pieces of evidence relate to specific assessments.

Many centres provided detailed candidate assessment records, logs, assessor comments and candidate feedback comments, which were extremely helpful in the external verification process.

Many centres had excellent, effective and rigorous internal verification policies and procedures that were included as part of their evidence submissions. Internal verification of candidates' evidence included marking and cross-marking, with signatures, initials, forms and personal comments to show where internal verification had taken place. Many centres had developed their own internal verification procedures and, when in place, these were used effectively and successfully to ensure the assessment judgements were valid and reliable. SQA has produced an Internal Verification Toolkit and, although not mandatory, centres may want to refer to this for guidance.

When centres are selected for external verification, they should submit a sample of no more than 12 pieces of candidate evidence and where possible this should be six from National 1 and six from National 2. If the centre is only presenting candidates at either National 1 or National 2, then an evidence sample of 12 pieces of work can be selected and submitted. Time does not allow for external verifiers to comment on more than 12 pieces of evidence per centre. More details on submitting evidence can be found on the SQA co-ordinators' section of the SQA website.

It should be noted that evidence from SCQF level 1 and 2 Personal Achievement Awards, Cycling Awards and Personal Development Awards can also be submitted with National 1 and National 2 assessment materials for external verification.