



National Qualifications

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2022–23

Mental Health and Wellbeing Award

Verification group number: 707

National Qualifications Awards

Mental Health and Wellbeing Award SCQF level 4

Understanding mental health issues J1D1 44

Influences on mental health and wellbeing J1CY 44

Coping strategies and building resilience J1CW 44

Mental Health and Wellbeing Award SCQF level 5

Understanding mental health issues J1D2 45

Influences on mental health and wellbeing J1D0 45

Coping strategies and building resilience J1CX 45

General comments

External verification took place centrally this year. Evidence was provided for verification by schools, colleges, and private training organisations, across both SCQF level 4 and level 5. It was evident that, in general, centres were clear on the national standards. Some centres do need to be aware of the national standard and the evidence requirements required for different levels — and making sure that candidates have the opportunity to meet the minimum evidence requirements,

Course arrangements, unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Evidence requirements

All centres were adhering to the unit specifications. This was clear from the evidence supplied. Some centres used the assessment support packs as part of the assessment process. All centres used an appropriate instrument of assessment. It is important that if centres use an adapted assessment instrument that they submit it for prior verification to make sure that it allows candidates to meet the minimum evidence requirements. Please see comments below.

Administration of assessments

It was evident that most centres had used a holistic approach to gather the minimum evidence requirements, as detailed in the unit specification, by allowing the candidates to produce work in a variety of formats.

Some centres had used the assessment support pack as an exam under controlled conditions. This award lends itself to being holistically assessed by generating evidence throughout, to meet the minimum evidence required. Some candidates' work met the evidence requirements but had also completed the assessment within the assessment support pack, which was not required.

The assessment provided can be used as a tool to ensure that candidates have met the minimum evidence requirements.

Some centres used appropriate checklists, to evidence that the candidates had met the minimum evidence requirements.

Some centres had failed candidates, due to them answering a question wrongly within the assessment support pack. Candidates should not be failed at the first attempt but should be given the opportunity to continue to gather evidence until the minimum evidence requirements have been met.

Learning and teaching

All centres had a good understanding of the learning and teaching requirements, and this was clearly evident within the work that was produced. Most centres offered the candidates choice in how to present their evidence, this included PowerPoints, personal stories allowing candidates to understand their own mental health, group work blogs, written work, posters, using arts and crafts, and workbooks.

Overall assessment

The evidence provided demonstrated that centres are being more creative in how candidates gather evidence for assessment to meet the minimum evidence requirements. Most centres gave the candidates choice where appropriate in the method of assessment used.

Most centres had given candidates feedback, on their work, and also provided feedback if any further evidence was required to meet the minimum evidence requirements.

Verification

Most centres had provided evidence of internal verification and standardisation. It is good practice to internally verify assessments, to make sure that they allow the candidates to meet the minimum evidence requirements, and to support the teaching team with the delivery.

Areas of good practice reported in 2022–23

There were many areas of good practice within the evidence supplied by centres.

- Candidates were given choice on how to produce their work, allowing for a range of naturally occurring evidence to be produced.
- Evidence was supplied in various formats, including blogs, personal stories relating to the candidate's own mental health, recordings, PowerPoints, posters, group work, workbooks, written work and the use of arts and crafts.

- Some centres provided robust internal verification and detailed and thorough feedback to candidates throughout.

Specific areas for improvement reported during session 2022–23

Overall the evidence generated was to a very high standard, using different formats.

There are areas to be considered when delivering the award:

- Centres to provide appropriate candidate feedback throughout.
- Centres to have evidence of internal verification and assessor feedback. SQA's [Internal Verification Toolkit](#) can support centres in creating their own internal verification policy and procedures.
- Assess candidates to the appropriate level, be aware of over-assessing, and provide appropriate marking guides. If the candidate has naturally generated the minimum evidence requirements, then there is no requirement for them to also complete the assessment within the assessment support pack.
- Use naturally occurring evidence to generate the minimum evidence requirements for the award over time.
- If centres are adapting or creating their own assessments, it is strongly advised that the centre-devised assessment be sent to SQA for prior verification. This will assure the centre that the assessment tool will allow the candidates to meet the minimum evidence requirements. More information on the prior verification service can be found at [National Qualifications - prior verification - SQA](#)
- The Mental Health and Wellbeing Award allows candidates to gather naturally occurring evidence over time. Candidates should be given as much opportunity as possible to gather the evidence. Candidates should not be failed at the first attempt but should be given support and guidance on what is required to meet the evidence requirements — and be given plenty of opportunity to do this.