



NQ verification 2022–23 round 1

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies
Verification activity:	Event
Date published:	May 2023

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H263 73	National 3	World Religion
H264 73	National 3	Morality and Belief
H265 73	National 3	Religious and Philosophical Questions
H263 74	National 4	World Religion
H264 74	National 4	Morality and Belief
H265 74	National 4	Religious and Philosophical Questions

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

During verification, the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ The majority of centres that were verified were deemed to be either 'accepted' or 'accepted*'. This was encouraging as it demonstrates that the majority of centres selected are consistent in their application of assessment approaches.
- ◆ Most centres selected successfully used the SQA unit assessment support packs as the basis for their unit assessment approach.
- ◆ Almost all centres based their assessment approaches on the unit-by-unit approach, and the vast majority of evidence submitted was based on written responses.
- ◆ A few centres had effectively used the sample questions that are included in the unit assessment support pack materials as the basis of their assessment materials. This approach is to be encouraged.

- ◆ There was clear evidence that most centres were using SQA materials, specifically the judging evidence table, in an effective manner.
- ◆ Almost all centres had used the current unit assessment support pack materials in a positive way, and this enabled their candidates to respond fully and achieve the relevant assessment standards.
- ◆ Some centres demonstrated a variety of assessment approaches for their candidates through their assessments and gave candidates several opportunities to meet the assessment standards in different ways throughout the assessment process.

Action points

The following comments are intended as a guide to centres on future practice:

- ◆ A small number of centres had used out-of-date unit specifications and this meant that their assessments were not accepted. Centres are reminded that they should always use the most up-to-date assessment standards and these can be found on the National 3 and National 4 Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies subject pages on [SQA's website](#).
- ◆ Some centres gave instructions to candidates that were a little confusing and did not fully support candidates' understanding of the specific assessment standards, and what they were required to produce to meet those assessment standards. Centres are reminded that assessment prompts should be appropriate to the level being assessed.
- ◆ A few centres are still using wording in their assessment approaches that places a demand on candidates that goes beyond what the assessment standards require, and this is disadvantaging some candidates.
- ◆ Centres are reminded that they can use alternative methods of collecting evidence of meeting assessment standards; for example, naturally occurring evidence.

Assessment judgements

During the verification event, the following examples of good practice were observed:

- ◆ The vast majority of centres verified made assessment judgements in line with national standards.
- ◆ The majority of centres submitted candidate evidence that was clearly annotated to show where each assessment standard was or was not met. This was done through highlighting, underlining, bracketing and numbering. These annotations made the verification process straightforward for the verification team and is to be commended.
- ◆ Some centres had used 'discussion with candidates' as a means of eliciting further information from candidates to qualify any achievement of an assessment standard, which was encouraging.
- ◆ Helpful feedback to candidates on how to achieve a particular assessment standard was used by a few centres to support candidates in their preparation for any re-assessment. This is to be encouraged as an example of good practice for centres to consider.

Action points

The following comments are intended as a guide to centres on future practice:

- ◆ A small number of centres failed to demonstrate on candidate scripts where assessment standards had been deemed to have been met by the candidate, and this meant that verifiers found it difficult to agree with centre judgements.
- ◆ Some centres did not always give candidates credit for meeting assessment standards, because they were met in a different section of the candidate evidence. Centres are reminded that assessment standards can be met throughout candidate evidence and candidates should be given credit for achieving assessment standards no matter where they achieve it in any materials submitted for verification.
- ◆ Some centres did not seem to be aware that RMPS has a holistic approach to assessment standards, which means that 'if a candidate broadly meets the requirements of the assessment standards, then there is no need for re-assessment'.

Section 3: general comments

Centres are reminded that the first step of any internal verification exercise should be to ensure that the centre is using the most up-to-date assessment standards to produce their assessments and to assess their candidates' work.

Centres are also reminded that they can submit both interim and complete evidence for candidates and that they should complete the verification sample form clearly showing whether a candidate has passed or failed the units or assessment standards assessed.

Centres are reminded that they choose the unit that is to be verified and that they only need to send evidence from one unit, not every unit that candidates sit.

Centres are encouraged to take advantage of [SQA's prior verification facility](#) when they are creating new approaches to assessment and to refer to [Evidence required for external verification of units](#) at verification events if looking for alternative ways to assess and submit candidate evidence.

If selected for verification, centres should ensure that they submit copies of the following information so that the verification process can run smoothly:

- ◆ the assessment task
- ◆ the judging evidence table, adjusted to suit their own needs
- ◆ specific quality assurance processes for internal verification documentation
- ◆ candidates' evidence of meeting the assessment standards, including clearly marked assessor decisions
- ◆ evidence (and comments, where applicable) of the work done by the internal verifier

Centres seeking guidance on internal verification should refer to the [NQ internal verification toolkit](#).