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NQ verification 2022–23 round 2

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

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

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
H263 73	National 4	World Religion
J2D5 75	SCQF level 5	World Religion
J2D7 75	SCQF level 5	Morality and Belief
J2D9 75	SCQF level 5	Religious and Philosophical Questions
J2D6 76	SCQF level 6	World Religion
J2D8 76	SCQF level 6	Morality and Belief
J2DA 76	SCQF level 6	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 were deemed to be either 'accepted' or 'accepted*' in their application of assessment approaches, and this was encouraging. Centres are to be commended for this consistency in applying standards.

♦ The unit-by-unit approach appears to be the approach that is used most frequently by centres, and the majority of evidence submitted was based on written responses to an end of unit activity. Centres are reminded that they can also use alternative methods of evidence gathering such as naturally occurring evidence.

- Most centres successfully used SQA unit assessment support packs as the basis for their unit assessment approach.
- A few centres produced assessments of their own and these were successful. The prompts used helped candidates understand what they had to do to achieve the assessment standards being assessed.

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

- A few centres were using 'closed book' type assessments when assessing units as well as using these assessments as 'exam' practice. Centres are reminded that unit assessments are 'open book' and using marks and time restraints for these assessments could disadvantage candidates. Time restrictions are not a feature of unit assessment standards and it is inappropriate to judge evidence on any criteria other than those associated with assessment standards.
- Some centres used wording in their assessments that over-complicated what was expected from candidates and therefore could have disadvantaged them. Instructions given to candidates should support candidates' understanding of the specific assessment standards and what they are required to produce to meet those standards. This also applies to the specific layout of any assessment as this should not disadvantage any candidate in their response. Centres should refer to 'Appendix 1: assessment information for candidates', in the unit assessment support packs, for guidance in this area.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of assessment materials can only be carried out by SQA. Centres cannot use another centre's prior verified material. A prior verification certificate only applies to the original submitting centre.

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

- The vast majority of centres made assessment judgements in line with national standards.
- Many centres submitted candidate assessment records that were well detailed as to why judgements were being made, which was helpful to the verification team while also being very supportive for candidates.
- The majority of centres had clearly shown on candidate scripts exactly where each assessment standard had been met and this greatly aided the verification process.
- 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 few centres seemed to be placing higher demand on candidates than necessary in order to pass a particular assessment standard. These centres had overestimated the

evidence required to meet the assessment standards and therefore candidates were potentially disadvantaged.

♦ A few centres failed to make it completely clear what their final decisions about candidate achievement were as the verification sample form was not completed appropriately, which slowed down the verification process.

♦ A few centres submitted evidence for more than one unit for each candidate and this slowed down the verification process as all evidence submitted is reviewed by the verification team.

Section 3: general comments

Centres should ensure that their assessment approaches are based on the stated requirements of each assessment standard for the unit.

Centres should only submit evidence for one level per candidate and should think carefully about how much evidence to send to SQA for verification. 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 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 unit or assessment standards.

Many centres submitted verification materials that were extremely well detailed and demonstrated good organisation both in the assessment and preparation for the verification process.

The verification sample form was completed appropriately by most centres.

Centres are reminded that RMPS has a holistic approach to assessment standards and this means that 'if a candidate broadly meets the requirements of the assessment standards then there is no need for re-assessment'.

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.

Centres are encouraged to refer to the feedback and support provided in the qualification verification summary reports on the RMPS subject pages on SQA's website.

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 SQA's NQ internal verification toolkit.