NQ Sociology Qualification Verification Summary Report 2024–25

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Sociology
Verification activity:	Event
Round:	1
Date published:	April 2025

National Units verified

Unit code	Unit level	Unit title
J2DE 75	SCQF level 5	Sociology: Culture and Identity
J2DB 75	SCQF level 5	Sociology: Human Society
J2DF 76	SCQF level 6	Sociology: Culture and Identity

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

A relatively small number of centres were verified this year.

Most centres used unit assessment support packs to assess candidates, often dividing the assessment standards into sections and assessing continuously throughout the academic year rather than one end of unit assessment.

One centre devised an assessment approach that incorporated the assessment standards into a unit workbook. This approach included more specific discussion questions that helped direct candidates to provide more detailed responses overall. Using formative assessment questions as part of the workbook activities also meant that it was possible to credit candidates for formative responses where the summative responses did not meet the minimum competence for the assessment standards.

Action points

- Continue to flag assessment standards next to questions and use the candidate assessment record or a centre-devised alternative to record achievement.
- Submit for prior verification any centre-devised assessments or any SQA unit assessment support pack that has been considerably altered.
- Continue to send in evidence of internal verification and evidence of sampling of candidate work. Internal verifiers should clearly annotate candidate evidence or the candidate assessment record to show agreement or disagreement with assessment decisions.
- Keep up to date with published changes to assessments. Assessors should refer to the Sociology subject pages for any changes.
- Ensure candidates are aware of the requirement to provide responses in their own words and of SQA malpractice definitions (see SQA's Malpractice: Information for centres).

Assessment judgements

There was evidence of good practice in many centres, in which assessors had noted the assessment standards throughout each candidate response. This resulted in evidence that was clear to follow for candidates, internal verifiers and external verifiers.

Most centres' internal verification was very good, and included detailed feedback from the internal verifier. Internal verification meetings provided evidence of professional dialogue between assessors and internal verifiers.

Action points

- Record evidence to show that remediation has taken place. The current candidate assessment record attached to the unit assessment support pack has no column for recording remediation. A cover sheet with a remediation column would be excellent practice, ensuring teachers, candidates and verifiers can track changes.
- Provide more qualitative feedback or annotate scripts to indicate that feedback was given orally or via a digital method. It would be good practice to detail content of oral assessment or remediation when recording is not an option.
- Centres should review their assessment tasks to ensure that they are offering candidates personalisation and choice in how they provide evidence to meet the assessment standards.

Section 3: General comments

Assessments must be checked to ensure their validity before candidates take them.

Centres' internal quality assurance procedures must ensure that all assessors have a common understanding of the standards required in the judging evidence table of the unit assessment support pack.

Centres should take care when transcribing details onto the verification sample form that 'pass or fail' indications match, and that unit codes are entered correctly. On this form, 'interim evidence' relates only to where incomplete evidence from a unit is submitted (for example, one outcome or several assessment standards have not been undertaken). If the unit has been completed but still requires remediation, then this is a 'fail' at the time of submission.