



# NQ verification 2022–23 round 2

## Qualification verification summary report

### Section 1: verification group information

<b>Verification group name:</b>	<b>Sociology</b>
<b>Verification activity:</b>	<b>Mixed</b>
<b>Date published:</b>	<b>June 2023</b>

### National Units verified

<b>Unit code</b>	<b>Unit level</b>	<b>Unit title</b>
J2DE 75	SCQF level 5	Sociology: Culture and Identity
J2DB 75	SCQF level 5	Sociology: Human Society
J2DG 75	SCQF level 5	Sociology: Social Issues
J2DF 76	SCQF level 6	Sociology: Culture and Identity
J2DD 76	SCQF level 6	Sociology: Human Society
J2DH 76	SCQF level 6	Sociology: Social Issues

### Section 2: comments on assessment

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.

However, several centres devised their own assessments or adapted SQA past papers for assessment purposes. Centres are advised to submit any centre-devised assessments for prior verification to ensure the assessments meet SQA requirements.

There was evidence that some centres are using marks as part of their assessments. This should be avoided as it may cause confusion for centre staff and candidates as candidates may achieve high marks but not meet all assessment standards or may meet each assessment standard but achieve lower marks.

## Assessment approaches

There was evidence of good practice within the majority of centres where 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. However, there were a number of centres who had not adopted this as standard practice, which made it challenging to identify where assessment decisions had been made.

More than a few centres sampled had not used up-to-date unit assessment support packs, which resulted in inaccurate assessment standards being used to assess candidates. Centres are reminded that as part of their annual standardisation cycle, they should review all SQA materials to ensure they are current and up-to-date.

## 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 assessment, for example do not re-assess candidates where no longer necessary. Assessors should refer to the [Sociology subject pages](#) for changes designed to reduce assessment

## Assessment judgements

Overall the majority of centres are judging the evidence according to the appropriate assessment standards. However, some assessors are still using marks and past papers in assessments, which are not appropriate for summative assessment but can be used for formative assessment.

For most centres there was evidence of good practice regarding the clarity of decision-making processes in terms of annotation on scripts where assessment standards had been achieved. This was very helpful for verifiers in understanding the process that centres had carried out. However, there continues to be very little qualitative feedback on candidate evidence and many centres did not indicate if qualitative feedback was given orally instead.

There continues to be a lack of evidence to show that remediation has taken place, perhaps because typed work already includes remediation in a portfolio approach. Good practice was found where assessors had marked where remediation had been carried out as these enabled both internal and external verifiers to understand the assessment process more clearly.

Most centres provided a record of internal moderation, but this was not evident in all centres and in more than a few it was clear no internal verification had been carried out. In several

centres there was a lack of evidence of what the final decision or action had been when there was a disagreement between assessor and internal verifier.

### **Action points**

- ◆ record remediation activity, for example by tracking this on candidate assessment records, stating what the candidate provided as part of this process, what form it took, and some detailed commentary if this activity was undertaken through oral feedback
- ◆ provide more qualitative feedback or where this is not accessible for external verifiers, provide evidence such as annotated scripts to indicate that feedback was given orally or via a digital method
- ◆ ensure that assessors and candidates are using the most up-to-date unit assessment support packs available on SQA's secure site, and are familiar with any changes

### **Section 3: general comments**

Each centre selected for verification should submit evidence for a sample of 12 candidates, where possible. The centre should ensure the evidence submitted to SQA reflects the units requested for sampling. The centre can choose which unit (or units, in a combined approach) to select for each level. The sample submitted should comprise six candidates per level at the two different levels (SCQF level 5 and SCQF level 6). When completing the verification sample form, it would be helpful if candidates were entered in this order. Ideally the sample should include a variety of candidate performances covering both pass and fail categories. Further information on generating the sample can be found on the [National Qualifications external verification web page](#).

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 one outcome from a unit is submitted. If the unit has been completed but still requires remediation, then this is a 'fail' at this time.