



Higher National Qualifications (China) Internal Assessment Report 2012

Computing

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Higher National Qualifications in this subject.

Higher National Units

General comments

Overall, from external verification visit feedback from the Computing External Verifiers (EVs), it would appear that the majority of staff within centres have a reasonably clear understanding of the national standards requirements.

In most cases the standard of candidate evidence was acceptable and assessors were marking and making judgements to an appropriate standard for the Units sampled.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

There appeared to be a familiarity across centres and most assessors of the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials produced by SQA. The judgement of competence has been made in relation to the Unit specification for all centre reports seen.

In one case, however, a centre showed a lack of awareness of exemplar availability and application. This was in a centre where D75X 34 is delivered to the same group separately with D85F 34, but actually the assessment exemplar for D85F 34 provided by SQA already covered D75X 34. The candidates are taking extra assessments which are not required. It is suggested that the integrated assessment exemplar is applied if the same group takes these two Units.

Evidence Requirements

In general, External Verifiers reported that centres had a clear understanding of Evidence Requirements for Units seen.

Overall, the quality and quantity of candidate evidence presented was to a good standard. They had finished the assessments and printouts were successfully presented. All required tasks were printed with adequate screen shots and interpretations.

Administration of assessments

Evidence indicates that the internal verification process has been carried out well. The standard internal verification forms had been appropriately filled out. The whole internal verification process within centres is generally deemed as highly acceptable.

For example, a report describes: 'Well-designed internal verification (IV) forms applied and presented. Detailed IV report written and suggestions given; afterwards actions were recorded accordingly. Effective IV process can be seen.'

It is worth noting that electronic evidence should also be available for external verification. External Verifiers should have access to this, as well as printouts that are specified in the Evidence Requirements.

General feedback

Although students/candidates appeared generally satisfied, it was noted on one visit report that 'Some of them discussed the intensity of assessment and class arrangements, however overall they enjoyed the study in the centre'.

Areas of good practice

- ◆ Effective internal verification was highlighted in many visits.
- ◆ Continuous Professional Development was well implemented by the centre to assist in the development and progression of lecturers.
- ◆ Judgements were appropriately and consistently made according to candidate performance; very detailed marking evidence presented to support assessor's judgement. Different levels of candidates' performances can be easily traced and fairly judged.

Specific areas for improvement

- ◆ It is recommended that marking comments on candidates' scripts made by the assessor teaching both Units be more informative and meaningful. This would justify his/her marking decisions more clearly and help candidates to make further remedies or improvements more effectively.
- ◆ It is suggested that opportunities are taken for integration of assessments and assessment tasks where noticed, although these may not be clearly stated in exemplars.
- ◆ It is suggested that Internal Verifiers give more specific and constructive feedback to assessors, where not already a standard practice in the centre.
- ◆ In a centre, it was noted that in Unit D75X 34 IT Applications Software 1, samples were provided from across three subject disciplines: Computing, Electronic Engineering and Financial Services. The standards were all in order. However, all used the same exemplar assignment. It is suggested that assignments be developed which are contextualised to candidates' areas of study.
- ◆ It is strongly recommended that centres ensure, and have methods of proving, authenticity of candidate evidence.

Higher National Graded Units

Titles/levels of HN Graded Units verified:

DLOH 34 Computing: Software Development: Graded Unit 1

DLOV 35 Computing: Group Award (Software Development) Graded Unit 2

DN7Y 35 Computing: Group Award (Technical Support) Graded Unit 2

General comments

Verification of the examination-based HN Graded Unit was overall fairly successful. The quality of assessor marking and internal verification was acceptable, overall good.

The judgement of candidate performance by assessors was mostly in line with the standard required. There were very few candidates presented this year whose marks required adjustment, and disagreements were within acceptable boundaries.

Presentation of materials and actual contents was suitable; all required documents were supplied.

Visiting verification for the project-based Units took place when the planning and developing stages had been completed and preliminary marks awarded.

The project-based Units seen indicated in most cases that there was a reasonably accurate understanding of the national standards.

Generally, for all Graded Units, evidence presented indicated a consistent and appropriate standard.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Centres appeared very familiar with Unit specifications and were using the exemplars effectively.

Evidence Requirements

From the external verification reports seen, assessors and Internal Verifiers have a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements within individual Units.

Administration of assessments

Internal verification processes within centres seem to be working effectively.

General feedback

Although in general there was good feedback from Internal Verifiers to assessors, it was noted that in some cases there was insufficient or no feedback to candidates on scripts. This would also help the IV/EV process.

Areas of good practice

- ◆ For exam-based Units, internal verification forms had been used and were presented. Comments to support assessors' decisions and suggestions were provided. No further actions were needed or taken. Effective internal verification process was evident.
- ◆ Internal verification process within centres seems to be working effectively.

Specific areas for improvement

- ◆ Where there were no detailed comments from the assessor, it is suggested that this be done in order to help ensure that different levels of candidates' performances can be traced and judged and appropriate grade awards given.