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Internal Verification and Standardisation – Benefits and Value



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- ◆ What is the role of internal verification?
- ◆ The process
- ◆ The functions and benefits of internal verification
- ◆ Benefits and value

What is the role of internal verification?

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Internal Verification: A Guide for Centres offering SQA Qualifications

What is the role of internal verification?



What is the role of internal verification?

Internal assessment can use assessments that centres have developed, or using assessments provided by SQA.

- In both cases, though, all assessments that contribute to an SQA qualification must be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair
- Assessors must apply the standards of assessment uniformly and consistently.

The purpose of internal verification is to ensure that these principles are met, regardless of the particular system used by a centre.

The process

Internal verification aims to ensure that:

- all assessments are valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair
- assessors apply the standards of assessment uniformly and consistently.
- national standards have been correctly identified and applied.

Internal verification involves

- Pre delivery, During delivery and Post delivery checks

Good internal verification includes discussion and the recording of discussion and decisions.

Internal Verifiers must have subject knowledge

IV Record Examples



The functions and benefits of internal verification

1. Supporting assessors
2. Checking assessment instruments to ensure validity
3. Arranging standardisation exercises
4. Sampling assessment decisions
5. Maintaining assessment and verification records

The functions and benefits of internal verification

1. Supporting assessors

The internal verifier should have a developmental role for less experienced assessors by offering advice and guidance. This support should be ongoing throughout the qualification, and not be left until its too late.

Benefits – Cuts down on costly mistakes, shares good practice, enhances staff morale

The functions and benefits of internal verification

2. Checking assessment instruments to ensure validity

All assessment instruments (including those devised by SQA) must be checked to ensure their validity before being taken by students. The internal verifier must ensure that all assessors have a common understanding of the standards required. Meetings between assessors to discuss the planned assessment will help to minimise any differences in interpretation.

Benefits – Maximises the chance that students will receive their certificates

The functions and benefits of internal verification

3. Arranging standardisation exercises

Standardisation exercises identify discrepancies between assessors

- **Agreement trials:** Assessors work together
- **Dual assessment:** Two assessors assess the same candidates
- **Cross assessment:** Assessors exchange candidate evidence to check each other's interpretation of the standard
- **Evidence review:** The internal verifier asks assessors to discuss discrepancies between their decisions
- **Double marking:** Assessors exchange the same student evidence to check each other's interpretation of the standard.

Benefits – Enhances centres reputation, standardises the student experience, improves success at qualification verification events



The functions and benefits of internal verification

4. Sampling assessment decisions

The internal verifier should select a sample of candidate evidence to check that each assessor is making consistent decisions in line with national standards. Sampling should be ongoing through the assessment process, not end-loaded.

Benefits – Standardises assessment decisions, improves chances of success at qualification verification, allows the sharing of experience and judgements

The functions and benefits of internal verification

5. Maintaining assessment and verification records

All assessment results leading to SQA certification must be signed by the internal verifier.

Records that are kept will include:

- validated assessment material
- reports of any meetings, including standardisation exercises
- records of observation of assessment
- checklists/marking schemes
- student records

Benefits – Records advice/good practice/decisions that can be shared, provides a record for SQA, enhances success

Benefits and Value

- ◆ **An effective *internal* verification system will help:**
 - Ensure that valid assessments are used for each qualification
 - Students to show that they have met the national standard
 - Assessors are familiar with the national standard
 - Assessors reach accurate and consistent decisions for the same qualification for all students in their centre in line with national standards (*SQA 2011*)

Benefits and Value

- ◆ **An effective *internal* verification system will help:**
 - Improve success at qualification verification events
 - Helps improve teaching practice
 - Improves the experience of the learners
 - Helps to integrate and develop new staff
 - Cuts down on mistakes
 - Enhances a centres reputation

