



SQA Advanced Qualification

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2024

Mathematics and Statistics

Verification group number: 142

Introduction

Eight external verification visits were carried out by the team this session. In almost all centres visited, practice was of a very high standard.

J45Y 47 Statistics for Business

Category 2: Resources

Criterion 2.1: Assessors and internal verifiers must be competent to assess and internally verify, in line with the requirements of the qualification.

All assessors and internal verifiers involved in the delivery of the qualifications were competent to assess and internally verify, in accordance with SQA's policies and procedures. Staff also undertook appropriate CPD and records were available for review.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

Criterion 4.2: Internal assessment and verification procedures must be implemented to ensure standardisation of assessment.

Almost all centres that were visited have developed robust, effective, and routinely applied internal quality control procedures. When internal verification reveals discrepancies in interpretation marking schemes, centres must ensure that there is further clarification of the marking scheme so that all assessors make consistent marking decisions.

Criterion 4.3: Assessment instruments and methods and their selection and use must be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair.

Internal verification of assessment instruments is universally applied by most centres that were verified. Centres must ensure that they are using the most up-to-date version of the assessment. Where the threshold mark for a pass is not achieved, centres must re-assess the candidate using an alternative instrument of assessment and must not allow 'reworking' of assessment material.

Marking instructions should be updated to include any valid alternative methods to support assessors in making valid assessment decisions. An appropriate software package should be used for part of the assessment as detailed within the unit specification.

Centres should consider whether it is appropriate to assess outcome 1 at the end of the unit to allow candidates the chance to develop their English language skills before attempting this outcome.

Criterion 4.6: Evidence of candidates' work must be accurately and consistently judged by assessors against SQA's requirements.

Most centres that were visited had clear, effective and routinely applied policies that ensured candidates' work was accurately and consistently judged by assessors.

Centres should ensure that follow-through marks are awarded where appropriate, as long as working is not eased. Centres must ensure that they have appropriate processes and procedures in place to routinely check for malpractice.

Areas of good practice reported by qualification verifiers

The following good practice was reported during session 2023–24:

- ◆ Lecturers' high level of competence brought additional insights and skills to the candidates and improved the quality of course delivery.

Specific areas for development

The following areas for development was reported during session 2023–24:

- ◆ Ensure all instruments of assessment are internally verified prior to delivery, including SQA ASPs.
- ◆ Update marking instructions to include any valid alternative methods.
- ◆ Award follow through marks where possible.
- ◆ Remain vigilant for malpractice.