



Internal Assessment Report: Access

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

National Units

Titles/levels of Units verified

D9ET 07	Handling Money
F142 07	Music: Exploring Sound
D93M 07	Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area: Monitoring
D556 08	Using Mathematics in Everyday Situations
D523 08	Art and Design: Exploring Visual Images
D8VH 08	English and Communication: Language Study
DC9K 08	Home Economics: Healthy Basic Cooking
D371 08	Physical Education: Performance
D526 08	Social Subjects: Deciding

General comments

Verification took place this year at a central event in April and through visiting at a further education college co-ordinated verification event.

Over 15 centres submitted completed evidence for the above Units. The centres involved in central verification were mainly mainstream establishments but included special units and FE colleges.

Throughout the year verifiers were also involved in approval and post-approval visits and prior verification of materials from a wide range of centres.

All evidence submitted throughout the year was of a high standard. Centres now have a very good understanding of the standards within the National Assessment Bank materials and are applying the support advice consistently across Units. Assessors are choosing the correct level for candidates and have adapted instruments of assessment in innovative ways to ensure that there are no barriers to achievement.

There has been good evidence of internal verification systems in some centres. This is vital to achieve a consistent standard and ensure high quality.

Candidates' evidence continues to be very good. It is obvious that centres are implementing a wide range of integrated assessment techniques that are appropriate to meet candidates' needs.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development

At both levels — Access 1 and 2, verifiers found clear evidence of:

- ◆ a good understanding of National Assessment Bank materials
- ◆ a growing awareness of the need for internal verification
- ◆ centres submitting supporting evidence, eg photographs — although not always mandatory it was useful in putting the assessment evidence into context

In general, evidence was clearly labelled, signed if required, checklists had been used, and submissions were presented well.

It is still important that all centres fill in the Verification Sample Form correctly when submitting evidence.

D9ET 07 — Handling Money

The standard of assessment for this Unit was very high. Evidence had been recorded well. The use of photographs illustrated the context of the Unit well. Marking guidelines had been followed accurately and a consistent standard was being applied to all candidates.

D9ET 07 — Music: Exploring Sound

Candidates with a wide range of abilities had taken this Unit. Materials and assessments had been developed to allow candidates to interact at different levels. The full range of participation codes had been utilised, allowing all candidates to achieve. In the photographic evidence submitted, candidates were obviously motivated and being encouraged to progress.

D93 07 — Monitoring and Maintaining an Environmental Area: Monitoring

The evidence submitted was of a very high standard. Photographic records of the monitoring process were excellent and illustrated candidate involvement well.

The log book should always reflect areas for recording that are stated in the National Assessment Bank.

If centres wish to change these completely, they should ensure that the developed instrument of assessment is prior verified.

D556 08 — Using Mathematics in Everyday Situations

The standard of assessment for this Unit was generally concise and of a consistent standard.

However, it is important that all centres:

- ◆ use checklists provided to give a clear overview of candidates' achievements
- ◆ sign and date assessments
- ◆ use internal verification systems to ensure that marking is correct
- ◆ record all oral responses of candidates and include these in evidence

In Learning Outcome 2, centres should also note that candidates need to produce an 'exact amount' of money rather than an approximate amount.

D523 08 — Art and Design: Exploring Visual Images

The instruments of assessment for this Unit had been adapted innovatively to suit candidates. The evidence submitted was of a very high standard, marking guidelines had been followed and the standard of assessing candidates was consistent.

Candidates were fully involved in the assessment process, as dialogue had also been recorded. This obviously added to their motivation, as photographs illustrated.

D8VH 08 — English and Communication: Language Study

All candidates had experienced a wide range of activities and experiences in this Unit and evidence submitted was very good. Candidates' points of view were clearly expressed and they showed a good understanding of and insight into using language.

DC9K 08 — Home Economics — Healthy Basic Cooking

The standard of evidence for this Unit was very good. All evidence sheets were clear and concise. Candidates had all covered all criteria required and their comments were well documented.

D371 08 — Physical Education: Performance

The standard of evidence for this Unit was good and candidates had covered all required activities.

It is important that centres choose activities that illustrate different skills, eg basketball concentrates on teamwork and develops ball work and gymnastics focuses on personal skill levels. This choice ensures candidates have acquired a wide variety of skills.

Submission of materials could have been enhanced by photographic evidence, and more positive constructive comments could have been used in feedback to candidates.

D526 08 — Social Subjects: Deciding

The folios completed by candidates were of a high standard and showed that candidates had been involved in a wide range of activities linking with World War II. The information gathered from identified sources was all relevant. Appropriate key ideas had been chosen, and decisions could successfully be reached.

Teacher comment sheets in folios to record discussion were useful as they gave a clear insight into the candidates' level of understanding of some difficult concepts.

All evidence statements — found in the National Assessment Bank — should accompany folios.