



NQ verification 2023–24 round 2

Qualification verification summary report

Section 1: verification group information

Verification group name:	Cantonese and Mandarin
Verification activity:	Event
Date published:	June 2024

National Course components verified

Course code	Course level	Course title
C845 75	National 5	Mandarin (Simplified): performance–talking
C811 75	National 5	Cantonese: performance–talking
C845 76	Higher	Mandarin (Simplified): performance–talking
C811 76	Higher	Cantonese: performance–talking

Note: the performance–talking is an internally assessed component of course assessment (IACCA).

Section 2: comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

Most centres selected for verification in round 2 used SQA’s coursework assessment task for the performance–talking effectively, as set out in the [National 5](#) and [Higher](#) Modern Languages course specifications.

At National 5, most centres selected for verification used approaches to assessment that were valid and accepted. The conversations sampled included various open-ended questions for candidates to demonstrate a range of language resource at this level. Generally, conversations were of an interactive nature and provided good examples of a spontaneous dialogue.

Note: we remind centres that at National 5, candidates must demonstrate adequate coverage of two different contexts in the presentation and conversation respectively.

Centres should refer to the recommended duration for the presentation and conversation as set out in the [National 5 Modern Languages Course Specification](#). Candidates should have adequate time to ensure they are able to demonstrate that they can cope with the demands of the performance at this level.

At Higher, most centres selected for verification used approaches to assessment that were valid and accepted.

Note: centres may wish to consider allowing for more personalisation in the choice of topics. This should provide candidates with a good opportunity to show a range of structures in order to express various opinions and ideas at this level.

Assessment judgements

Most centres' judgements at National 5 and Higher were reliable and accepted.

At National 5, most centres demonstrated how marks had been awarded in line with national standards. Assessors made effective use of the marking instructions to support the marks awarded to each candidate.

Note: with candidates from different heritages, centres should be consistent in making effective use of the marking instructions to support the marks awarded to each candidate.

At Higher, the marks awarded by most centres were in line with national standards, reliable and accepted. Assessors made effective use of the marking instructions to support the marks awarded to each candidate.

Section 3: general comments

For the purposes of SQA external verification, centres are advised to:

- ◆ provide some commentary in the candidate assessment record (or similar document) against the marks awarded for each section of the National 5 performance–talking. In particular, it would be useful to have a brief explanation as to why the centre opted for one pegged mark over another for each section of the performance. The same commentary for the discussion mark at Higher is also very useful
- ◆ provide documented evidence of their internal verification procedures and processes and how this was applied to the candidate evidence sampled. To support the effectiveness of internal verification, it is good practice for centres to use SQA's [Internal Verification Toolkit](#)
- ◆ note that the assessor cannot be the internal verifier
- ◆ ensure that the performance–talking is conducted in appropriate surroundings, eliminating the possibility of disruptions and background noise, as described in the assessment conditions in the National 5 and Higher Modern Languages course specifications. This is to ensure that candidates are not distracted and are able to cope with the demands of the assessment task