

National 1 and National 2



This update contains information on recent updates to documents for your subject(s) along with further information and guidance.

I hope you find this information helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sandy Riddell
Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

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Qualifications Manager

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Qualifications Officer

National 2 freestanding Units

We published a group of new National 2 freestanding Units (Units which do not form part of Courses) in January 2015. They have replaced some of the previous freestanding Access 2 Units.

There are a total of 29 National 2 freestanding Units — 13 covering employment skills in different vocational areas and 16 covering a range of subjects. The Unit Specifications and Unit Support Notes for these are available from www.sqa.org.uk/national2

Personal Achievement Award (SCQF Level 1)

In 2015, we introduced a change to Outcome 3 of the Units within the Personal Achievement Award at SCQF level 1. Outcome 3 no longer requires candidates to give a reason why they liked or disliked the activity they were involved in. This follows feedback we received from centres who reported that Outcome 3 was proving too challenging for many of their candidates at SCQF level 1.

We updated the corresponding Unit Support Notes in April 2015 to reflect this change, and centres were advised to refer to the updated documents from August 2015 onwards.

Unit assessment support for Personal Achievement Awards

We have published new Unit assessment support packs to cover all Units that form part of the Personal Achievement Awards at SCQF level 1 and 2. In September 2015, 20 Unit assessment support packs covering Units at SCQF level 1 were published and in December 2015, a further 20 packs covering Units at SCQF level 2 were published.

These Unit assessment support packs are available from our secure website, within the Wider Achievement Awards section, and can be accessed through your SQA Co-ordinator.

Verification activity

We began our external verification for National 1 and National 2 qualifications in February 2016. As in previous years, this has involved a mixture of central verification (where centres send material to us to be verified) and visiting verification (where an SQA Appointee visits the centre to carry out verification).

Once the National 1 and National 2 verification activity for session 2015–16 is complete, a Verification Key Messages report, written by the Principal Verifier, will be published on our website. This, and previous Verification Key Messages reports, can be accessed from the list of Courses at www.sqa.org.uk/national2 or from the subject menu at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects

Understanding Standards materials

We have published over 600 candidate evidence and commentary packs as part of our Understanding Standards programme. These materials contain examples of candidate evidence, along with a commentary that explains why the evidence has or has not met the standards required for the assessment.

We have published Understanding Standards materials for the following National 1 and National 2 subjects during session 2015–16:

National 1

- Independent Living Skills: Going Shopping
- Communication: Creating Text

National 2

- Food, Health and Wellbeing: Food Preparation
- Food, Health and Wellbeing: Food for Health
- Physical Education: Taking Part in Physical Activities
- Science in the Environment: Living Things
- Social Subjects: Making a Decision

These materials are available from our secure website. You can arrange access to them from your SQA Co-ordinator, however please note that they must be stored securely and treated as confidential. Further Understanding Standards materials will be published from June 2016.

Understanding Standards events

In May 2016, we are hosting Understanding Standards events for National 1 and National 2 qualifications. These will take place on the following dates:

- Tuesday 10 May 2016 (Dundee)
- Thursday 12 May 2016 (Glasgow)

The events are intended to support centre staff who are delivering National 1 and National 2 qualifications. Spaces are limited, so early booking is advised. For further information and to book a place at either venue, please visit the Understanding Standards page of our website, at www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards

Stay informed

Subscribe to our newsletters

We currently issue two key newsletters for teachers and lecturers:

- Centre News (weekly)
- New National Qualifications update (monthly)

Both of these newsletters contain the latest news and updates for the National Qualifications. Centre News also includes subject-specific news and a regular reminder of key dates during the session.

To subscribe to our newsletters, visit <http://mailer.sqa.org.uk>

Visit your subject pages

Make sure you regularly visit your subject pages, where you can access documents and assessment support materials for your Courses, Verification Key Messages and information on coursework. You will also find the latest news updates for your Courses in the 'Updates and announcements' section.

Visit www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects

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