

ESOL



This update contains information relevant to your subject and details of the support available to you.

We also publish updates on the new National Courses in the 'Updates and Announcements' section of the relevant **subject pages**. I would encourage you to make regular use of our subject pages, where you will find support documents, answers to common questions, and links to other areas of interest. You can also sign up for 'My Alerts', SQA's e-mail update service, that notifies you whenever content you are interested in is added or updated on SQA's website. Visit **www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts** to register.

I hope you find the following update helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Emma Bratchell
Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

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Qualifications Manager

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Qualifications Officer

Documents and assessment support materials

Assessment support materials are now available for the new National 1 to Higher Qualifications, marking a significant milestone. It is important that you read the full suite of documents for your Course, as well as those relating to assessment.

Further information on documents and assessment support materials can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments

Looking ahead to 2015/16

Understanding Standards

In June 2015, we will publish further Understanding Standards packs for National 1 to Higher, which will contain candidate evidence and commentaries for Unit assessment and internally assessed Components of Course assessment.

The Understanding Standards programme will continue throughout session 2015/16, and will include Nominee training events, Understanding Standards events for National 5 and Higher, and Understanding Standards packs.

The Nominee training event for ESOL will take place on Wednesday 23 September 2015.

The Understanding Standards event for Higher ESOL will take place on:

- 16th January 2016 (Glasgow)

For more information on Understanding Standards, visit

www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards

Continuous Professional Development support

We will continue to offer subject-specific CPD support for new National Courses, where particular areas of concern are identified that are not already addressed by the Understanding Standards programme.

Use of National 4 Added Value Units

From August 2015 onwards, you will have the option of developing your own National 4 Added Value Unit assessments for use with candidates. Please note that this is not a requirement and you can continue to use SQA-produced Added Value Unit assessments until further notice. Most SQA-produced Added Value Unit assessments already allow considerable flexibility in the choice of a context for the assessment, while some provide a context that you can change.

Further information can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/unitassessment

Home Office Update

SQA received information from the UK Home Office indicating that after November 2015, applicants for settlement or naturalisation will no longer be able to use SQA ESOL qualifications as evidence of their English language skills. We are seeking urgent clarification from the Home Office as to the details of this change and will issue further updates as soon as possible. Please see below for further information.

[http://mailer.sqa.org.uk/english-language-testing-for-settlement-and-nationality/2015/16/27/deafc51d-3248English Language Testing For Settlement and Nationality-41a2-8e52-a46800da26da](http://mailer.sqa.org.uk/english-language-testing-for-settlement-and-nationality/2015/16/27/deafc51d-3248English%20Language%20Testing%20For%20Settlement%20and%20Nationality-41a2-8e52-a46800da26da)

Contact SQA

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