

Modern Languages



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.

We hope you find the following update helpful.

Jim McDonald and Marilyn Waters
Qualifications Managers

The Qualifications Team

Jim McDonald and Marilyn Waters

Qualifications Managers

Elaine Clusker, Rhoda Morrison,
Quorum Beg, Malcolm Wilson,
Carolyn O'Reilly
Qualifications Officers

Documents and assessment support materials

Assessment support materials are now available for the new National 1 to Advanced 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

Updates to documents

Advanced Higher documents

We are making planned updates to Advanced Higher documents. This follows the publication of Advanced Higher Specimen Question Papers, Coursework information and Unit assessment support packs. The updated Advanced Higher **Unit Specifications**, **Course Specifications** and **Course Assessment Specifications** are available now.

We will also update the Advanced Higher **Course and Unit Support Notes**, and finalise all packages of Advanced Higher **Unit assessment support** by the end of May 2015.

Further details of changes to Advanced Higher documents are outlined in the January 2015 subject update. The Notification of Changes spreadsheets have been updated to reflect the latest changes to documents. You can view these spreadsheets at www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges

National 3 to Higher documents

We have updated the Unit Specification for the *Modern Languages Assignment (National 4) Added Value* Unit, following feedback from colleagues and from information gathered during Verification activities in 2013/14. The updated Unit Specification indicates three Assessment Standards (where the Unit previously consisted of 4 Assessment Standards). Changes are listed below:

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- Assessment Standard 1.2 – *Selecting relevant information from the texts* – **has been deleted**
 - In the updated Unit Specification, the three Assessment Standards are:
 - 1.1 Understanding straightforward written texts in the modern language
 - 1.2 Giving an oral presentation, in the modern language, on the topic investigated
 - 1.3 Responding orally to oral questions in the modern language, relevant to the chosen topic

The updated **Unit Specification** is available now for *Modern Languages Assignment (National 4) Added Value Unit*. **There are no changes to Course and Unit Support Notes as a result of changes to the Unit Specification.** The associated **Unit assessment support pack** will be modified slightly to take account of the changes and will be re-published by the end of August 2015.

The Notification of Changes spreadsheets have been updated to reflect the latest changes to documents. You can view these spreadsheets at www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges

Support and guidance

Round 1 Modern Languages Verification Key Messages Reports

Principal Verifiers and Nominee colleagues have recently completed session 2015/16 Round 1 of Unit Verification of National Courses in Modern Languages. Key Messages Reports for Round 1 are now available:

- [French](#)
- [Gaelic \(Learners\)](#)
- [German](#)
- [Italian](#)
- [Mandarin](#)
- [Spanish](#)

Key Messages Reports can be downloaded from the National 3, National 4, [National 5 and Higher Modern Languages subject page](#) under 'Assessment Support' (verification heading).

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.

Nominee training events for Modern Languages will take place on Wednesday 28 October 2015.

Understanding Standards events for Higher Modern Languages, similar to those held for National 5 in January 2015, will take place later in 2015 or early 2016. We will be in touch with centres to confirm the dates of these events in due course.

For more information on Understanding Standards, visit [**www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards**](http://www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards)

Continuing 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.

From August 2015, we will also offer subject-specific CPD support to assist teachers and lecturers with the implementation of the new Advanced Higher Courses.

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**](http://www.sqa.org.uk/unitassessment)

Advanced Higher Exemplar Question Papers

In December 2015, we will publish Exemplar Question Papers for all new Advanced Higher Courses that include a question paper as part of the Course assessment.

Further information on Exemplar Question Papers, and other available assessment support materials, can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments

Contact SQA

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

Tel: 0303 333 0330

Fax: 0345 213 5000

E-mail: mycentre@sqa.org.uk
