

## Psychology



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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts)** to register.

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

**Elaine McFadyen**  
**Qualifications Manager**

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## The Qualifications Team

Elaine McFadyen  
Qualifications Manager

Erin McCabe  
Qualifications Officer

## 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments)

## Updates to documents

Updated versions of the following documents will be published on SQA's website by the end of May 2015:

- National 5 **Course and Unit Support Notes**
- New Higher **Course and Unit Support Notes**

### National 5 Course and Unit Support Notes

- Appendix 3: Ethical Practice in Student Research — Psychology:

This Appendix has been updated and now includes a link to The Association for the Teaching of Psychology (ATP) website. The ATP has recently published a 2015 version of *A Guide to Ethics in Practical Research Activities for Pre-tertiary Psychology Teachers and Students*. This new guidance document can be found at [www.theatp.org](http://www.theatp.org)

### New Higher Course and Unit Support Notes

- Appendix 3: Ethical Practice in Student Research — Psychology:

The changes to the Ethical Guidance within the National 5 Course Support Notes outlined above have also been incorporated into the same Appendix within the Course Support Notes for new Higher Psychology.

- Individual Behaviour Unit Section:

The **Course Assessment Specification** states: 'Learners will cover at least three psychological approaches to demonstrate understanding of topics from different psychological points of view'. The **Course and Unit Support Notes** have been updated to reflect this mandatory content, as they had previously incorrectly stated that learners will be able to evaluate at least four different approaches.

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- Sleep, Dreams and Sleep Disorders Section:

The mandatory studies outlined in the **Course Assessment Specification** are:

- Dement, W. and Kleitman, N. (1957). The relation of eye movements during sleep to dream activity: an objective method for the study of dreaming. *Journal of Experimental Psychology* 53, 339–46.
- Czeisler, C. A., Johnson, M. P., Duffy, J. F., Brown, E. N., Ronda, J. M. and Kronauer, R. E. (1990). Exposure to bright light and darkness to treat physiologic maladaptation to night work. *New England Journal of Medicine* 322, 1253–59.

The **Course and Unit Support Notes** have been updated to reflect this mandatory content, as they had previously incorrectly stated that the mandatory studies were Dement and Kleitman (1957) and Van der Werf et al. (2009).

Centres were previously advised that these changes were required to the **Course and Unit Support Notes** within the last Psychology Subject Update published in **November 2014**.

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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges)

## Verification Key Messages

Verification activity for Psychology took place in March 2015 and the **Key Messages** report for Centres has now been published.

## Approval criteria

Centres are reminded that staff delivering/assessing Psychology within Centres are required to have the following qualifications: **at least two years' successful study of Psychology at University or Higher National Diploma (HND) level, including study of research methods in Psychology.**

Following a recent review of approval criteria for Psychology Internal Verifiers, we can confirm that Internal Verifiers do not require at least two years' successful study of Psychology at University or Higher National Diploma (HND) level.

In line with other subjects, individuals undertaking the IV role for Psychology within Centres must have sufficient subject knowledge to understand the content of assessments and national standards for the award. They also need to be able to confirm that reliable assessment judgements have been made.

## SQA Markers

SQA welcomes applications from teachers/lecturers to mark Psychology question papers and assignments at all levels. If teachers or lecturers are interested in becoming a Marker in

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Psychology, information and application forms are available on the Appointee Management section of SQA's website.

To become a Marker, a minimum of two years' Psychology teaching experience is required. In a number of subject areas there have been examples where the results in centres have improved dramatically after a member of staff joined the marking team. The experience of marking helps to increase the awareness of the demands of Course assessment and is proven to be excellent professional and personal development. For more information, please visit SQA's **Marker Information** web page.

## 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, Course assessment events for National 5 and Higher, and Understanding Standards packs.

Nominee training events for Psychology will take place on Tuesday 27 October 2015.

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.

#### Contact SQA

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

**Tel:** 0303 333 0330

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**E-mail:** **[mycentre@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mycentre@sqa.org.uk)**

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