

## Sociology



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

There have been no changes made to Sociology National 5 or New Higher Course documentation since the changes advised in the last Sociology Subject Update letter published November 2014, which can be found at

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/SubjectUpdateSociologyNovember2014.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SubjectUpdateSociologyNovember2014.pdf)

## Verification Key Messages

Verification activity for Sociology took place in March 2015. The [Key Messages](#) report for Centres has now been published.

## Approval criteria

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

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

In line with other subjects, individuals undertaking the Internal Verifier role for Sociology 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 Sociology question papers and assignments at all levels. If teachers or lecturers are interested in becoming a Marker in

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

To become a Marker, a minimum of two years' Sociology 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 Sociology 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

**Fax:** 0345 213 5000

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

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