



New Developments and Opportunities in Personal & Social Education

The NQ Review in Personal & Social Education (PSE) is proceeding apace, and we would like to give centres an update on ongoing developments.

Revised Units and Courses at Access 3 and Intermediate 1 will be available from August 2007, for certification in 2008. Revised Units and Courses at Intermediate 2 and Higher will be available from August 2008 for Course certification in 2009.

So what do the revised Units and Courses offer?

Incorporation of the aims of ‘A Curriculum for Excellence’ and ‘Skills For Work’ initiatives

The content and contexts have been revised and developed to offer ‘skills and attitudes for employability’ and flexible approaches to problem solving. The revised Units and Courses will also tie in with the four capacities in ‘A Curriculum for Excellence’ and may allow candidates to use evidence from non-core extra-curricular or community-based activities. In line with Skills for Work Courses, the revised Courses will be awarded on successful completion of the Units which make up the Course and will therefore be ungraded.

Flexibility of design and progression

Centres will have structured options of Units to choose from in making up their Courses, drawn from a variety of personal, community and work-related contexts, thereby allowing centres to tailor Units and the Course to meet their individual needs. Each series of Units will ultimately be available in a hierarchy from Access 3 to Higher, offering progression within Courses and between Course levels. The relationship between this revised provision and Access 2 will also be considered.

Flexibility of evidence requirements

Unit assessment will be based on a folio of evidence gathered during each Unit, but evidence for the fourth Unit at Intermediate 1 to Higher may come from either the other three Units or from the traditionally non-core activities referred to above.

Flexibility of entry and timing of certification

Candidates can of course be entered for Units only and thereafter can build up individual Units into a Course. Certification for free-standing Units is once a month.

Comprehensive centre support

It is hoped that a new model will be used for moderation which would include both support and moderation functions. SQA is currently looking at a variety of models which it may introduce to achieve this aim. Learning and Teaching Scotland and SQA will be cooperating in the production support of materials which will involve the creation of learning and teaching support packs and assessment exemplars. Launch events will be held early in 2007.

Centre communications

All news and developments regarding the revised Units and Courses will be communicated to centres in update letters and in future issues of e-zine. If you know of a colleague who would wish to receive update letters and future issues of e-zine containing news of the revised Units and Courses directly, please e-mail their name and e-mail address to: **eunice.mcallister@sqa.org.uk**.

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