

National Qualifications Support Team Chemistry



Action grid from meeting held on Friday 7th November 2014

Ref.	Agenda/minute title	Notes of discussion/action agreed	Action	Date
1	Welcome, introductions, roles and remit of NQST - confidentiality	Qualifications Manager, Andrew Shield (AS) welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the group of the roles and responsibility of the NQST. Andy informed the group that anything discussed in the team must be kept confidential at all times.		
2	NQST Quickr Place demonstration	Qualification Officer Sheron Ross (SR) provided the team an overview of quickr and led a group discussion on the best way to use quickr for the team.		
3	Verification activity 2013–14	<p>Subject Implementation Manager, Catherine McKinlay (CMcK) provided an overview of Verification Activity in 2013/2014 and advised that the Key Messages report was available on the SQA website. Members were provided with a copy of the Key Messages report and asked to comment and given the opportunity to ask questions.</p> <p>Members were informed that the verification support material is</p>		

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		<p>available on the SQA Secure site.</p> <p>AS provided clarification on the SQA internal verification policy and informed the group that there is an internal verification toolkit that may be useful for a centre to use when creating an internal policy.</p> <p>CMcK reminded the group that the smallest 'chunk' that can be assessed in a unit assessment is a key area. Unit assessments are set at C-level.</p> <p>Clarification was provided on the words independent and dependent. It was clarified that the words independent and dependent do not need to be explicitly stated in Chemistry (and also Physics).</p> <p>CMcK reminded the team that there is a useful table in the portfolio approach that centres' can use to make up their own assessments but also reminded the group that it is advisable to have any centre devised assessments prior verified.</p> <p>The team asked if it would be possible to have the same skills criteria in the unit assessment and course assessment. AS suggested that this could be an action for the NQST in future. Sharon to record this and put on agenda for the next NQST meeting.</p> <p>AS informed the group that SQA has given a guarantee to centres' that there will be no changes to the published</p>	SR	Nov 2015

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		<p>documents in the next year.</p> <p>Clarification was provided on the rules of reassessment. The reassessment must be different to the assessment. The multiple choice section, if applicable, should mirror the external assessment.</p> <p>The team was informed that 'Acid Rain' should not be used as a topic as there is no application.</p> <p>Added Value Unit – An issue must be stated. It is extremely important that candidates are being given access to the candidates' guide. The assessor must make sure that the AVU is completed under appropriate conditions.</p>		
4	Overview of Understanding Standards activity	<p>AS advised that there will be Understanding Standards events across the country. The exemplification materials produced will be published on our secure site in due course.</p> <p>http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/71920.html</p> <p>AS provided an overview of course assessment 2013/2014. The team discussed the performance of the assignment compared with Physics and Biology. The team was provided with the N5 Chemistry Course Report.</p> <p>The team was informed that the course assessment for Higher Chemistry will still test knowledge from lower levels as has always been the case. This is important for centres' that are still presenting the traditional Higher Chemistry course to be aware</p>		

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5	SSERC Update	Chris Lloyd provided the team with an update on SSERC activity. Members were shown where to find the resources that are available for Chemistry on the SSERC website. Members were informed by AS that the exemplars have yet to be approved by SQA. Chris informed the team of future work that is planned and provided his contact details so that he can be contacted for any advice/support.		