

Drama



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 our website. Visit www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts to register.

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

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager

Madeleine Berry
Subject Implementation Manager

Heather Findlay
Subject Implementation Manager

Lindsay Thomson
Qualifications Officer

Key messages from Diet 2014–15

Course Reports

We strongly recommend that you read the annual Course Reports for the subject(s) and levels you are teaching. These reports are produced following the annual diet of exams and are published by the end of October. The reports provide informed and valuable comment on the assessment for each Component in the Course, and include a summary of:

- candidate performance in the Course assessment
- areas in which candidates performed well
- areas which candidates found demanding

The reports also contain advice on preparing future candidates, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course Reports are available from the relevant [subject pages](#) of our website.

Verification Key Messages

Key messages from round 2 of verification in session 2014–15 were published over the summer. They are available from the relevant [subject pages](#), where you can access them from the 'Verification and Course Reports' heading in the 'Assessment Support' section.

Documents and assessment support materials

It is important that you read the full suite of documents for your Course, as well as those relating to assessment, and that you refer to the latest versions.

Information on documents and assessment support materials for National 3 to Advanced Higher can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments.

National 5 and Higher documents

As we communicated in our May 2015 subject update, we updated some documents for National 5 and Higher Drama for use in session 2015–16. The following revisions were made:

- The National 5 Drama Lexicon in the Course and Unit Support notes has been updated to include ‘tone’ in the ‘voice’ column.
- The National 5 general assessment information document has been updated to reflect the requirements for costume as ‘Costumes must be provided for all characters in the production (a minimum of two)’. As the minimum number of actors in a production is two, it follows that this should be the minimum number of costumes that we would expect to see from a costume designer.

You can find more details of these revisions in the [May 2015 subject update](#).

Advanced Higher documents

In April and May 2015, we updated the mandatory documents and Course/Unit Support Notes for Advanced Higher.

All documents were updated to provide clarification and to reflect any changes made as a result of the development process.

Further information on these revisions can be found in the [May 2015 subject update](#).

You can also view the Notification of changes spreadsheets for National 3 to Higher, and Advanced Higher at www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges.

The Advanced Higher Drama Course Assessment Specification will be changed to ensure consistency with National 5 and Higher Drama regarding the setting, conducting and marking of the two Components of Course assessment.

The performance section will include the following additional information:

- The preparation for performance will be set by centres within SQA guidelines and conducted under some supervision and control.
- The performance will be marked by an SQA Visiting Assessor under conditions set by SQA.

The project-dissertation section will include the following additional information:

- The assessment will be set by centres within SQA guidelines and conducted under some supervision and control.
- Evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking.

Further information on assessment can be found in the general assessment information document for Advanced Higher Drama.

Advice and guidance

The [common questions](#) document for National 3, National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama was updated in September 2015.

2015–16 Drama external assessment timetable and year planner

February to April 2016	<p>The visiting examination period (performance exams) starts on 15 February 2016 for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama.</p> <p>The visiting examination period ends on 29 April 2016.</p>
May 2016	<p>13 May 2016 is the SQA uplift date for the Advanced Higher Drama project-dissertation. This Coursework is marked by SQA.</p> <p>Wednesday 25 May 2016 (afternoon) — Question Paper examination for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National 5 Drama• Higher Drama

Coming up in 2015–16

Understanding Standards 2015–16

From the end of October 2015, we will publish further Understanding Standards packs for National 4 to Advanced Higher. These packs contain candidate evidence and commentaries for Unit assessment and internally assessed Components of Course assessment.

From November 2015 to January 2016, we will hold subject-specific Understanding Standards events for teachers and lecturers. The main focus of these events will be on Course assessment at Higher. Understanding Standards events for Higher Drama will take place on the following dates:

- Thursday 19 November (Stirling)
- Monday 23 November (Glasgow)

Materials from the recent Nominee training events will also be published on our website.

For more information, visit www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards.

Details of the Understanding Standards materials for each subject are available from the [subject pages](#).

National 4 Added Value Units

You now 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. 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.

If you choose to develop your own Added Value Unit assessment, we strongly advise submitting it to us for prior verification before using it with candidates.

Further information can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/unitassessment.

Marker recruitment opportunities for 2016

We are now accepting Marker applications from teaching professionals to contribute to the 2016 examination diet. If you are interested in joining us as a Marker please visit the [appointee opportunities](#) section of our website where you will find a marker advert for all subjects and levels, with details of the role.

Our current Markers will confirm to you that the experience of marking helps increase their awareness of the demands of Course assessment and that marking is excellent professional and personal development.

Please check www.sqa.org.uk/appointees regularly for other appointee opportunities which may be of interest to you.

Contact us

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

Tel: 0303 333 0330

Fax: 0345 213 5000

E-mail: mycentre@sqa.org.uk

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