

Design and Manufacture



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.

Lesley Clark
Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

Lesley Clark
Qualifications Manager

Zoe Anderson
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 1 to Advanced Higher can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments.

National 3 to Higher documents

As we communicated in our May 2015 subject update, we updated some documents for National 4 and National 5 Design and Manufacture for use in session 2015–16. These updates were made in April and May 2015 and the following revisions were made:

We carried out a review of the Assessment Standards in both Units of National 4 and 5 (Design and Manufacture: Design H22T 74/75 and Design and Manufacture: Materials and Manufacturing H22V 74/75).

Updated **Unit Specifications, Course Specifications** and an updated **Course Assessment Specification** for National 5 are available on the [subject pages](#). These are accompanied by comparison documents that clearly illustrate what changes have been made and will help you to quickly and easily identify the updates. Comparison documents are available from the subject pages and sit alongside the updated documents.

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

National 4 and 5 Unit assessment support

In August 2015, we updated some Unit assessment support materials for National 4 and National 5. This follows the revisions to Unit Specifications that were made in April 2015, and feedback gathered from centres during session 2014–15.

Please refer to the 'Notification of Changes' spreadsheets for your curricular area, as these provide a summary of the changes to each document and include details of the revised version numbers. These are available from www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges.

The use of SQA-produced Unit assessments is not mandatory; however, if you are using them, we strongly encourage you to use the most up-to-date versions. Please note that you may continue to use existing versions of the Unit assessments until the end of session 2015–16 and both will be accepted for verification purposes.

The updated Unit assessment support materials are available from our secure website and you can arrange access to them through your SQA Co-ordinator.

Further information on the reasons for the changes to Unit assessment support, and guidance on the next steps to take, is provided below. This information was also communicated to centres in August 2015.

Subject	Reason for change	Next steps for centres
National 4 and National 5 Design and Manufacture	<p>The Unit assessment support packs have been amended to take account of the revisions that were made to the National 4 and National 5 Design and Manufacture Unit Specifications in April 2015.</p> <p>Full details of the revisions to the Unit Specifications were included in our May 2015 subject update.</p>	Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.

To find out more about using our Unit assessment support packs, visit www.sqa.org.uk/unitassessment.

National 5 Coursework information

The Marking Instructions for the National 5 Design and Manufacture Course assignment have been revised. These changes were made following feedback from verification visits, to clarify the assessment requirements.

Although changes have been made to the wording and layout of the Detailed Marking Instructions, there has been no change to weighting/number of marks for each section.

'Further information for assessing' has been added to clarify the statements within the tables. This brings the tables in line with the Higher Detailed Marking Instructions.

A summary of the changes is as follows:

Design section

Stage	Changes	Rationale
Ideas	Section changed to 'Generation of ideas'	Focus on skill being assessed — not the end product.
	'Producing a range of ideas which address the requirements of the brief' changed to 'Producing a range of alternative ideas'	To clarify that it is a range of creative ideas which is required to achieve marks in the top band. Candidates cannot be awarded marks for copying a 'range' of existing ideas.
	'Producing a range of ideas' changed to 'Producing creative ideas'	
Development of ideas	'Exploration and evolution of ideas towards a design proposal' changed to 'Exploring and refining ideas towards a design proposal'	Exploring and refining are the terms used at Higher.
	'Making reference to material and manufacturing' changed to 'Applying knowledge and understanding of materials and manufacturing'	The candidate's ability to apply their knowledge is being assessed.
	'Understanding of design issues' changed to 'Applying knowledge and understanding of design issues'	The candidate's ability to apply their knowledge is being assessed.
	'Ongoing review of ideas' changed to 'Reviewing and justifying decisions'	Clarification of what is being looked for, as there was some confusion between this and the 'Communication' stage in

		the original document.
Communication	Section changed to 'Use of communication'	Focus on the skill being assessed.
	The statement in band was split and information shown in bullet points below	To add clarity.
Evaluation	Section changed to 'Evaluation of proposal'	To clarify what was being assessed.
	Range statements changed to focus on the evaluation	

Practical skills

Cutting, shaping and forming	Section changed to 'Using hand and machine tools'	The skill being assessed is the use of the tools. Table has been split into vertical bands, to allow candidates to demonstrate skills in a number of ways.
Assembly of components	Statements now focus on the preparation and assembly	Focus on the skills being assessed.

Advanced Higher documents

In April and May 2015, we updated the mandatory documents, Course/Unit Support Notes and Unit assessment support for Advanced Higher. The following revisions were made:

- The mandatory content was updated following the revision of the Course Assessment Specification.
- Additional information on Course assessment was provided.
- The 'Approaches to Assessment' section was reviewed following the publication of Unit Assessment Support.

Further information on these revisions can be found in the 'Notification of Changes' spreadsheets for National 3 to National 5, Higher, and Advanced Higher at www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges.

Advanced Higher Exemplar Question Papers

In December 2015, we will publish Exemplar Question Papers for all new Advanced Higher Courses that include a question paper as part of the Course assessment.

Coming up in 2015–16

Understanding Standards 2015–16

From the end of October 2015, we will publish further Understanding Standards packs for National 1 to 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 Design and Manufacture will take place on the following dates:

- 29 January 2016, Glasgow
- 30 January 2016, Stirling

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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