

Media



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.

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Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

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Qualifications Manager

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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 Unit assessment support

In August 2015, we updated some Unit assessment support materials for National 3 to Higher. This follows feedback gathered from centres during session 2014–15.

Please refer to the 'Notification of Changes' tables 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.

Following feedback from practitioners and live verification events, alterations have been made to allow for ease and clarity in meeting Assessment Standards. Minor amendments have been made to the wording of tasks and additional advice has been provided in judging evidence tables. The changes have been made to more accurately reflect the level and provide sufficient differentiation between levels.

- In the National 3 Creating Media Content Unit-by-Unit pack the assessment task has been clarified to include reference to the appropriate number of ideas required.
- In the National 4 Added Value Unit assessment there have been some minor clarifications to the assessment task, particularly in relation to the number of ideas required for Stage 1.
- In the National 4 Analysing Media Content Unit-by-Unit pack some minor changes to wording have been made to the judging evidence table and the assessment task.
- In all of the National 5 Analysing Media Content packs, additional advice has been provided in columns three and four of the judging evidence tables to clarify the relationship between Assessment Standards 1.1 and 1.5 in relation to the coverage of key aspects.
- In the National 5 Combined Unit assessment support pack some minor changes have been made to the wording of the assessment task so that it better reflects the judging evidence table.

Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.

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

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

Higher Coursework information

The marking instructions for the 'Planning' section of Higher Media assignment have been updated in response to the 2015 exam diet. Additional guidance has also been provided on the 'Planning' and 'Development' sections in the Coursework assessment task and general assessment information documents. Updated versions of these documents were published at the end of September. The general assessment information document can be found on the [Media subject page](#) and the Coursework assessment task is published on the secure website.

Advice and guidance

Media common questions

A [common questions](#) document has been produced for Media practitioners which contains useful advice and guidance on Unit and Course assessment at all levels.

National Qualification Support Team

We are currently looking for members to join our newly formed NQST for Media. This is an opportunity for delivering practitioners of Media to represent their views at an annual meeting and an online forum throughout the year. For more information please visit the [NQST section](#) of SQA's website.

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 Media will take place on the following dates:

- 21 November 2015 in Glasgow
- 27 November 2015 in 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.

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.

In Media we are also recruiting for the following roles:

- National 5 Team Leaders
- Higher Team Leaders

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

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who have undertaken duties in 2014–15. We appreciate all the work the teams carry out and look forward to continuing to work with them during session 2015–16.

Contact us

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

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