

Classical Studies



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.

Jillian Hendry
Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

Jillian Hendry
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 5 and Higher Coursework information

In response to feedback and our experience and reflection of the marking processes during the 2015 examination diet, we have made some changes to the mark allocations for National 5 and Higher Classical Studies. There is no change to the approach or content of either assignment, nor is there any change to the total marks available. The changes relate to the number of marks available in each section of the assignment and how these marks are awarded.

A summary of the changes to the mark allocations for both National 5 and Higher levels is shown below. Further details on how the marks are awarded can be found in the General Assessment Information document on the subject page; more detailed marking instructions can be found in the Course Assessment Task document which is available on SQA's secure site.

National 5

Section A: Using a set of sources of evidence (2 marks)

Section B: Drawing on straightforward, mainly factual, knowledge and understanding to explain and analyse key features of the topic or issue (5 marks) (*previously 4 marks*)

Section C: Analysing information in a structured manner (1 mark) (*previously 2 marks*)

Section D: Briefly commenting on the usefulness or reliability of at least two sources of information (3 marks)

Section E: Comparing and contrasting the Greek and/or Roman worlds with the modern world, in terms of religious, political, social, moral or cultural life (3 marks)

Section F: Reaching a reasoned conclusion on the topic or issue (3 marks)

Section G: Reference to both supporting information and potential challenges or counter-arguments (3 marks)

Higher

Section A: Introduction (2 marks) (*new section*)

Section B: Comparing and contrasting the Greek and/or Roman worlds with the modern world, in terms of religious, political, social, moral or cultural life (5 marks)

Section C: Drawing on in-depth knowledge and understanding to explain fully and analyse the issue (8 marks)

Section D: Analysis and evaluating (12 marks) (incorporate previous sections A, D, E and G)

Section E: Reaching a reasoned and well-structured conclusion on the issue (3 marks) (*previously 2 marks*)

In addition to the mark changes, the guidance on Resource Sheets has been updated in the Course Assessment Task and General Assessment Information documents. A suggested word limit of 200 words for National 5 and 250 words for Higher has been included in the guidance. This has been added to encourage candidates to use the Resource Sheets as an aid when writing their assignments. Candidates should not pre-write their assignments as no marks are awarded for extended text/narrative that has been copied from the Resource Sheet; however, copying quotations in full is allowed.

Advanced Higher documents

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

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.

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.

Advice and guidance

Classical Studies Unit assessment support

For Advanced Higher Classical Studies, the following Unit assessment support packs have been produced:

Package 1

- Unit-by-Unit pack covering the *Social Aspects of the Classical World* Unit
- Portfolio pack covering the *Researching Classical Studies Issues* Unit

Package 2

- Portfolio pack covering the *Social Aspects of the Classical World* Unit

Package 3

- Unit-by-Unit pack covering the *Social Aspects of the Classical World* Unit

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. An Understanding Standards event for Higher Classical Studies will take place on the following date:

- 11 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

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