

History



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

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Qualifications Manager

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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 Unit assessment support

In August 2015, we updated some Unit assessment support materials for National 3 to Higher.

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.

Subject	Reason for change	Next steps for centres
National 3–5 History	<p>N3–N5: Advice to assessors in Assessment Conditions standardised and adapted to align with the advice given at Higher which is more direct and straightforward. (packages 1, 2 & 3)</p> <p>N3–N5: Exemplification of possible responses added to Column 4 of the Judging evidence table. Possible responses standardised across all levels for greater clarity. This will be supportive to inexperienced assessors in making reliable and consistent assessment decisions on evidence. (packages 1 & 2)</p> <p>N4 & N5: Deletion of 'These should be key points' from Column 3 AS 2.1/2.2 in package 1 Scottish, British and European & World. Feedback suggests that this phrase is superfluous.</p> <p>N4: UASP1 British/European & World assessment prompt changed to include 'You should put the information in your own words'. This is to align with Columns 1–3.</p> <p>N5: Package 1 Scottish AS1.1 Column 3 reformatted to express evidence required to meet the Assessment Standard as a bullet point list for greater clarity.</p> <p>N5 only: Minor amendment for clarification to British Part Four: Changing Britain 1760-1914 Illustrative area (3) Transport — canals and railways.</p>	Centres are advised to be aware of these changes.

Higher History	<p>Higher: (UASP 1 Scottish) Support for candidates amended in AS 1.1 for clarity.</p> <p>Higher: (UASP 1 British) Example task changed to a more obvious British task. King John has replaced David I to avoid confusion (since David I is associated with Scotland).</p> <p>Higher: (UASP 1 Scottish, British and European & World) Column 3 of the Judging evidence table AS 2.3 amended to clarify meaning of 'understanding of underlying order or structure'. Alternative wording suggested to aid assessors.</p> <p>Higher: (UASP 1 European & World) Column 3 of the Judging evidence table AS 1.1 amended to clarify that the AS requires four pieces of information within/across at least two factors.</p>	Centres are advised to be aware of these changes.
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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

National 5 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 History. There is no change to the approach or content of the assignment, nor is there any change to the total mark available. The changes relate to the number of marks available in the sections of the assignment and how these marks are awarded.

A summary of the changes to the mark allocations 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 website.

Updated National 5 History Coursework marks

Section A: Introducing the question or issue (2 marks) *(new section)*

Section B: Using information from sources referred to, in order to support factors (2 marks)

Section C: Using other knowledge to support factors (4 marks)

Section D: Analysing the impact of different factors (3 marks) *(new section)*

Section E: Evaluating the overall impact of different factors (2 marks) *(previously 3 marks)*

Section F: Organising the information to address the question or issue (3 marks)

Section G: Coming to a conclusion which addresses the question or issue (2 marks) *(previously 3 marks)*

Section H: Supporting a conclusion with reasons (2 marks) *(previously 3 marks)*

In addition to the mark allocation and marking criteria guidance changes noted above, the guidance in relation to Resource Sheets has been updated in the Course Assessment Task and General Assessment Information documents. A suggested word limit of 200 words has been included in order 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.

Higher Coursework information

In the detailed marking instructions and the marking grid for the assignment, a very minor change has been made to the supported commentary for **Placing the issue in its historical context**, although the mark allocation remains the same.

Guidance on using the Resource Sheet has been updated in the Course Assessment Task and General Assessment Information documents. A suggested word limit of 250 words has been included in the guidance in order 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

National 5 Question Paper, question stems and standard wording

Please note that minor amendments have been made to some of the question stems for National 5 History. The revised text is noted below:

Evaluate the usefulness questions.....

Prompt changed **from**: (You may want to comment on who wrote it, when they wrote it, why they wrote it, what they say and what has been missed out.)

to: (You may want to comment on what type of source it is, who wrote it, when they wrote it, why they wrote it, what they say and what has been missed out.)

How fully questions.....

Prompt changed **from:** (Use Source A and recall.)

to: (Use the source and recall to reach a judgement.)

Advanced Higher History dissertation titles

The exemplar dissertation titles list has been added to the Advanced Higher History subject page, under the Coursework Information tab. The titles list is for exemplification purposes; candidates may select their own title and if they wish they can submit the proposed title to SQA for feedback on its suitability. Please note that where proposed titles are being submitted, these must be submitted by 1 November 2015. For further information please refer to the Advanced Higher subject page. Further information on the marking criteria for the dissertation can be found on SQA's secure website.

Advanced Higher History Unit assessment support

The following Unit assessment support packs have been produced:

Pack 1

- Unit-by-Unit pack covering the *Historical Study* Unit
- Unit-by-Unit pack covering the *Researching Historical Issues* Unit

Pack 2

- Unit-by-Unit pack covering the *Historical Study* Unit

Pack 3

- Portfolio pack covering the *Historical Study* 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. Understanding Standards events for History Higher will take place on the following dates.

- 19 November 2015, Glasgow
 - 25 November 2015, Edinburgh
 - 22 January 2016, Edinburgh
 - 28 January 2016, Aberdeen
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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](#)

Use of 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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