

# **SQA National and Higher National Qualifications in English for Speakers of Other Languages**

## **Update September 2008**

We are pleased to inform you that the secondments of Margaret Allan and Jennifer MacDougall have been extended until the end of June 2009. Please refer to contact details at the end of this update.

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# **1. National Qualifications Framework in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**

## **1.1 Recognition of Higher ESOL by General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)**

On 21 August 2008 the GTCS notified SQA that Higher ESOL is considered by GTCS 'as a qualification that is acceptable as an alternative to Higher English for entry into initial teacher education programmes.'

The GTCS will advise the Scottish Government of this view and if this is acceptable to them it can be included in the next revision of the Memorandum on entry requirements to Courses of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in Scotland so that the change can be in place for considering entry into ITE for session 2009/10. SQA will update centres and stakeholders when confirmation of this is received from the Scottish Government.

## **1.2 Acceptance of Higher ESOL by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**

The admissions departments of all universities in Scotland have confirmed to SQA that they accept Higher ESOL as part of their general entrance requirements. However individual university faculties may set specific subject requirements. SQA advises that centres check with university admissions departments to see if any specific requirements exist for specific Courses. If centres have any difficulties in obtaining this information, they can contact SQA who will endeavour to liaise directly with universities on centres' behalf.

## **1.3 Revised National Assessment Bank (NAB) materials for ESOL National Qualifications Framework**

As part of the ongoing process to ensure ESOL Unit Assessments meet centre needs and incorporate centre feedback, minor amendments have been made to the ESOL Unit NABs. We would like to thank the many centres who provided feedback on the NABs. The updated NABs will be added to the ESOL pages of the secure area of SQA's website shortly. A separate notice will be sent to centres as soon as possible to alert them to this. We would advise centres to replace the previous version with the new version of the NABs.

Note that this secure website's password changes periodically and that all SQA Co-ordinators were notified of the new password on 20 August 2008. ESOL External Verifiers will, however, accept either version of ESOL Unit NABs during session 2008/09.

## **1.4 Marking instructions for the Speaking section of the external assessment**

Revised marking instructions for the Speaking section of the external assessment at Intermediate 2 and Higher are now available on the ESOL pages of SQA's secure website. It is important that centres replace the previous version with the new version of the marking instructions.

## **1.5 Learning Support materials**

SQA Learning Support materials for all National Units from Access 2 (excluding Literacies Units) to Higher (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) are available on SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk/esol](http://www.sqa.org.uk/esol))

### **Learning and Teaching Scotland (LTS) Learning Support materials**

LTS has produced resources to support the delivery of SQA ESOL Courses at Higher and Access 3 levels in the following areas:

- ◆ Everyday Communication: Access 3
- ◆ Work and Study-related Contexts: Access 3
- ◆ Everyday Communication: Higher

These have been designed to support the development of a variety of skills and will be available on the LTS website by autumn 2008. Resources will be available in Word and audio format, where appropriate. They can be downloaded from the LTS website ([www.ltscotland.org.uk/nq](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/nq)).

Please note that two additional resources at Higher level to support delivery of Reading and Writing will be available soon. Please continue to check the LTS website for when they will be uploaded.

#### **1.5.1 Literacies Units at Access 2**

The learning materials are now available on the ESOL area of SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk/esol](http://www.sqa.org.uk/esol)). The assessments are on the secure area of SQA's website. Centre Co-ordinators have access to these materials. Please approach them for details.

Each centre working with ESOL Literacies learners has received a paper copy, in colour, of the material to assist with copying and contextualising material.

#### **1.5.2 E-enabled Learning Support materials (not for Literacies Units at Access 2)**

One copy of the ESOL e-learning CD has been issued to centres delivering ESOL qualifications. Centres may copy the CD for the purpose of delivering SQA qualifications in ESOL. If your centre was not on the original distribution list, but is now offering SQA ESOL qualifications and wishes to order a copy of the CD, please contact the Customer Contact Centre on 0845 279 1000 or [customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk), referencing publication code BB4241.

The CD contains tasks for each Unit from Access 3 to Higher. At present the CD only contains tasks for the Everyday Communication Unit at Access 2. Following feedback from centres SQA will be working with Learning Connections to develop e-enabled tasks for the other two Units at Access 2 and, when ready, these will be available for download from SQA's website.

## **1.6 Guidance on assessing Speaking and Writing**

Guidance on assessing Speaking and Writing at all levels is now available on the secure area of SQA's website.

### 1.7 Benchmarking of Higher ESOL Course against Common European Framework of Languages (CEF)

The benchmarking of Higher ESOL is ongoing. A group of experts will work with SQA's specialist on the CEF to consider candidate evidence from the 2008 examination diet and benchmark it against the CEF.

### 1.8 SQA ESOL Course entries 2007/08

#### 2007/08 Course entries by sector

	2007/08	2006/07
Schools	237 (of which 61 for Access 3 Course)	62
Colleges	703 (of which 101 for Access 3 Course)	236
<b>Total</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>298</b>

#### 2007/08 Course entries by level

	2007/08	2006/07
Access 3	162	0
Int 2	486	208
Higher	292	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>298</b>

### 1.9 SQA ESOL Unit entries 2007/08

Overall ESOL Unit entries in Scotland grew by 47% from 6,923 to 10,146 between August 2007 and August 2008.

#### Unit entries by level

	2006	2007	2008
Access 2	411	461	1852 (of which Literacies = 370)
Access 3	1246	2336	3069
Int 1	1046	2401	2389
Int 2	712	1310	2058
Higher	144	415	778
<b>Total</b>	<b>3559</b>	<b>6923</b>	<b>10146</b>

#### Access 3 ESOL Course entries

In the academic year 2007/08 SQA received 162 entries from 16 centres for the Access 3 Course C222 09. If you plan to enter candidates for three ESOL Units at Access 3 level please bear in mind that the option to enter candidates for the Course award C222 09 is also available. If you believe that a candidate will achieve three Units at Access 3 it is more cost effective to enter candidates for

the full Course than to enter on a Unit by Unit basis and then enter for the full Course. The former option costs £21.75 whereas the latter option costs £43.50.

Please note that the Course at Access 3 does not have any external assessment and candidates achieve the Course award on successful completion of the three Units. (The Access 3 Units can also be taken on a free-standing basis.) The Course at Access 3 is the new term for what used to be called a Cluster. The term 'Cluster' has been replaced with the term 'Course'. There is no Course available at Intermediate 1.

### **1.10 Future developments**

The members of the National Panel and the associated Working Parties on Curriculum and Professional Development (see section 6.0) continue to meet to develop and support these areas. Information on the work of these groups can be found at [www.esolscotland.com](http://www.esolscotland.com).

Support for centres in the delivery of NQs in ESOL continues this year. There will be events focusing on adapting and tailoring assessment for specific contexts as well as 'quality network' events in partnership with Learning Connections, LTS and SFEU.

Additional e-enabled support material will be developed for NQ Units at Access 2 level (see section 1.5.2), while a bank of online formative assessment items will be developed to support the delivery of Access 2 – Higher Units.

The new 'ESOL for Work' qualifications (see section 2.0) will be supported by launch events across the country as well as by new assessment material and support packs.

## **2.0 New SQA Certificates in ESOL for Work at SCQF level 4 and SCQF level 5**

As a result of SQA's experience in the field of work-based ESOL, the Department for Innovations, Universities and Skills (DIUS) asked SQA to participate alongside other awarding bodies in the development of new 'ESOL for Work' qualifications for the English market.

SQA developed two Certificates in ESOL for Work at National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Entry level 3 and level 1 for delivery by employers, colleges and training providers in England to learners in or seeking employment. The title and structure of these qualifications (size, skills-modes, level of component Units etc) were determined by strict criteria set down by DIUS and QCA, the regulatory authority for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. As such, these qualifications do not follow the standard Scottish National Qualifications format, although we are considering adapting<sup>1</sup> these qualifications in the future to bring them in line with existing SQA qualifications. At both levels the Certificates in ESOL for Work encompass three Units: one for Speaking & Listening, another for Reading, and a third for Writing — giving a total of six Units. In accordance with DIUS/QCA criteria, writing is currently assessed at a level lower than the level of the overall Certificate.

SQA is now making these qualifications (in their current format) available to customers in Scotland because they provide an additional tailored approach to assessing the skills of learners already in the workplace, and therefore complement the existing NQ Units. The Certificates in ESOL for Work at NQF entry level 3 and level 1 are available at the comparable SCQF levels 4 and 5.

Unit Specifications and case studies of ESOL for Work are available on the ESOL area of SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk/esol](http://www.sqa.org.uk/esol)). The Assessment Support Packs are available on the secure area of SQA's website as well as comprehensive Tutor Support Packs containing references to useful weblinks, published materials and guidelines on contextualisation. If you wish further information please do not hesitate to contact us using the address details above.

<sup>1</sup>As we are considering adapting these qualifications to bring them in line with existing SQA qualifications, we would be interested in receiving any feedback from centres delivering these qualifications. An ESOL for Work comment form has been posted in the 'Centres In Scotland' area, under the menu option 'New SQA Certificates in ESOL for Work'.

### **3.0 Updates to the website ([www.sqa.org.uk/esol](http://www.sqa.org.uk/esol))**

The ESOL section of SQA's website has been updated with the following changes:

- ◆ After reaching the ESOL pages ([www.sqa.org.uk/esol](http://www.sqa.org.uk/esol)), ESOL centres in England should select 'Centres outside Scotland'. ESOL centres in Scotland should select 'Centres in Scotland'.
- ◆ Details about the new SQA Certificates in ESOL for Work are available by selecting 'Centres in Scotland' then selecting 'New SQA Certificates in ESOL for Work' from the right-hand menu.
- ◆ Two new Higher ESOL Course case studies are now available. The first is of a school-based learner who progressed to studying a BSc in Biomedical Sciences at Strathclyde University, and the second is of a college-based learner who progressed into work as an Architect's Assistant. They can be found by selecting 'Centres In Scotland', then 'Support for Centres', then 'Marketing Materials', and then 'Case Studies'.

### **4.0 HN developments**

The following Units have now been reviewed and are in **final draft form**:

- ◆ D5P3 34 Presenting Complex Communication for Vocational Purposes, SCQF 7 — this Unit will retain this title but have a new Unit number.
- ◆ D77G 34 Communication: Practical Skills and DE3N 34 Communication: Analysing and Presenting Complex Communication have been combined into one new Unit specification. The title of this new Unit has still to be decided.

These will be available at end of September 2008. Further developments will include a review of DE1K 33 Workplace Communication in English.

## 4.1 PDA: Introduction to Tutoring English for Speakers of Other Languages

### Professional Development for ESOL practitioners

The ***PDA: Introduction to Tutoring ESOL G91E 46 (SCQF level 6)*** is a new Professional Development Award for ESOL practitioners. It is aimed particularly at volunteer tutors and tutor assistants. The award is intended as a first stage qualification providing core skills and knowledge for those who have no formal (TESOL) training.

There are two Units:

**F43X 33 Language and Learning in ESOL** focuses on the core knowledge required to deliver ESOL. Areas covered are: ESOL learners and factors affecting language development; English language features and terminology; language skills and language selection.

**F43W 33 Developing ESOL Tutoring Skills** focuses on the tutoring skills required to deliver ESOL. This Unit covers: planning; appropriate resource selection and use; delivery and evaluation of learning/tutoring.

Centres wishing to offer the Award (or Units) must seek approval from SQA before doing so, as devolved approval has been removed for this Award.

### Launch events

The ***PDA: Introduction to Tutoring ESOL (SCQF level 6)*** has now been developed and validated and launch events have been organised across the country.

These events, for centres wishing to deliver this award and for organisations interested in the award for staff development, will take place in September and October:

Edinburgh	17 September
Glasgow	23 September
Edinburgh	24 September
Aberdeen	1 October

The events will provide SQA centres with information about the new qualification and consider implications for delivery. We hope to meet potential centres on the day to describe the qualification itself, who the potential candidates are, who can deliver the award and delivery options.

The events will run from 10am till 3.30pm and are free. However, places are limited. If you would like to attend one of the above events, please contact: [sqaevents@sqa.org.uk](mailto:sqaevents@sqa.org.uk) or phone: 0845 279 1000.

### Future developments

SQA is continuing its work in this area to provide support for this award and further qualification development.

The National ESOL Panel (see section 6.0 below and also the **ESOL Scotland** website) has set up a Professional Development Working Group to consider

implications of, and provide recommendations for, a Professional Development Framework for ESOL practitioners in Scotland. For further information you can contact Jennifer MacDougall on:

Tel: 0845 213 5596

E-mail: [jennifer.macdougall@sqa.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.macdougall@sqa.org.uk)

Web: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/pdaesol>

### 5.0 ESOL mailing database

If you would like your or a colleague's contact details to be added to the SQA ESOL mailing database, please contact [karen.mackle@sqa.org.uk](mailto:karen.mackle@sqa.org.uk).

### 6.0 National ESOL Panel website

The National ESOL Panel's website ([www.esolscotland.com](http://www.esolscotland.com)) will give you the latest information on:

- ◆ the adult ESOL strategy for Scotland
- ◆ the National ESOL Panel as well as the Curriculum Framework Working Party and the Professional Development Working Party
- ◆ ESOL Courses across Scotland
- ◆ professional development opportunities for ESOL practitioners
- ◆ a resources databank, and
- ◆ contact details for community learning and development partnerships and colleges

### 7.0 Contacts

For advice and further information on the content of this update please contact any of the following:

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