

Drama



Welcome to the first edition of our new look subject update, which replaces the letter you would have received previously. This complements our regular monthly and weekly communications, with more information relevant to your subject and details of what we have been working on.

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. Documents that must be treated confidentially can be found on our secure site and you can arrange access to these through your SQA Co-ordinator.

I hope you find the following update helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager

Contacting the team

Mary McDonald
Qualifications Manager
Tel: 0345 213 6811
mary.mcdonald@sqa.org.uk

Joanna Morris
Qualifications Officer
Tel: 0345 213 5554
joanna.morris@sqa.org.uk

Updates to documents

In the **special edition June 2014 update** on the new National Qualifications, we explained that we would be making updates to documents containing mandatory information on National 3 to National 5 Courses, along with the associated Unit assessment support packs.

National 3 to National 5

The following updates have been made:

- The Course Specification document was updated to reflect that learners will be assessed through a performance and a question paper. The performance will involve creating and presenting a performance based on a text extract. The question paper will require demonstration of a depth of knowledge and understanding from the Course.
- For the National 5 Drama Course assessment, acting candidates' performances will last a minimum of 10 minutes to a maximum of 45 minutes, depending on the number of candidates performing.
- The Unit assessment support packs for the National 4 *Drama: Production Skills* Units have been updated to remove 'set' from the list of production skills.

A high level summary of these updates can be found in the Notification of changes spreadsheet for National 3 to National 5 Expressive Arts, at **www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges**

New Higher

Some documents containing mandatory information on the new Higher were reviewed and revised in April and May 2014, along with the Higher Unit assessment support packs.

A high level summary of these updates can be found in the Notification of changes spreadsheet for Higher Expressive Arts, at **www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges**

Support and guidance

2014 Question paper Marking Instructions

Finalised Marking Instructions for the 2014 Drama question papers have now been published on the National 5 Drama web page.

Course assessment reports

We annually publish guidance on performance in external Course assessments and evidence generated for internal assessment. This includes Course Reports, External Assessment Reports and Verification Key Messages, all of which will be available in the autumn via the relevant subject pages of SQA's website.

Please note that Internal Assessment Reports will not be published for the new National Courses.

The following Verification Key Messages are now available:

- **National 3 to National 5 Drama**

Please take time to read the above report as it contains useful feedback on candidate performance in 2013–14.

Looking ahead to 2014–15

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken SQA duties in session 2013–14. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing to work with them during session 2014–15.

Recruitment opportunities

We are currently in the process of recruiting for a number of vacancies that we are looking to fill between now and February 2015. Vacancies include new and replacement appointments for the following roles in relation to the new qualifications:

- Drama: Higher Question Paper Validator
- Drama: Higher Senior Team Leader – External Assessment
- Drama: Higher Team Leader – External Assessment
- Drama: Higher Visiting Assessor
- Drama: Higher Marker
- Drama: National 5 Marker

For more information, please visit www.sqa.org.uk/cfeappointeevacancies

Visiting assessment

The 2015 visiting assessment period for Drama (all levels) is from **16 February–1 May 2015**.

Question paper examinations

These will take place on **Tuesday 28 April 2015** (morning) for the following levels:

- Intermediate 1
- Intermediate 2
- National 5
- existing Higher
- new Higher
- Advanced Higher

Understanding Standards

Throughout session 2014–15, we will be publishing a range of Understanding Standards materials for both Unit and Course assessment. These materials will include candidate evidence with commentaries and can be used by centres for training and bench-marking purposes. We will also run Understanding Standards events for Unit assessment, for Nominees to share knowledge of Unit assessment with their colleagues. In addition, we will run Understanding Standards events for Course assessment for National 5, which will be open to all subject specialists.

Further information will follow in SQA's weekly and monthly centre updates.
