

ESOL



Welcome to the first edition of our new-look subject update. 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 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.

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Contacting the team

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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. No revisions have been made to mandatory documents for ESOL.

National 3 to National 5

Unit assessment support packs at National 3, 4 and 5 have been updated. A high-level summary of these updates can be found in the Notification of changes spreadsheet for National 3 to National 5 Languages, at www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges.

New Higher

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

We have published comparative documents on the subject pages, illustrating the changes made to the Higher Course Specification and Course Assessment Specification.

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

Support and guidance

Finalised Marking Instructions for the 2014 ESOL question papers are published on the relevant subject pages of SQA's website.

Guidance on performance in external Course assessments and evidence generated for internal assessment is published annually. 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. Internal Assessment Reports will not be published for the new National Courses.

The following Verification Key Message is now available:

◆ **National 3 to National 5 ESOL**

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 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:

- ◆ Higher Team Leaders
- ◆ Higher Markers
- ◆ National 5 Markers

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

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.
