

## All subjects at National 1 and 2



Welcome to the first edition of our new-look National 1 and 2 update. This update complements our regular monthly and weekly communications, with more information relevant to National 1 and 2 and details of what we have been working on.

We are currently working on the National 1 and 2 pages of our website and looking to make them easier to navigate and find the information you need, including support documents, answers to Common Questions, and links to other areas of interest. The pages are available now but we will be making improvements and adding new documents to them over the coming weeks. We will continue to store documents that must be treated confidentially, such as Unit assessment support packs, on SQA's 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 us if you have any questions.

**Sandy Riddell**  
Qualifications Manager

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## Contacting the team

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## Updates to documents

### National 2 English and Communication

Following feedback from our verification activities during session 2013–14, we have made some revisions to the tasks included in the Unit assessment support packs for the following Units:

- ◆ H246 72 Listening and Talking (National 2) – Package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach – the tasks requiring candidates to watch video footage and commentary (covering ‘Rabbits and Hares’ and ‘Luke Jackson’) have been replaced by tasks involving a tomato soup recipe and a phone message.
- ◆ H241 72 Understanding Language (National 2) – Package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach – the first task had included a passage from the novel *Blood Ties*; this passage has now been replaced by a task involving a text titled *The Mummy’s Gold*.

Please try to ensure you are using the most up-to-date versions of these documents. The new versions can be downloaded now from SQA’s secure website.

## Support and guidance

External verification activity for National 1 and 2 during 2013–14 showed that in general most centres are working well with the new qualifications.

Reports called ‘Verification Key Messages’ were written by the Principal Verifier after each round of verification and these reports contain some helpful advice and feedback for centres. The reports are available from the **National 1 and 2** section of our website.

## 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, including Nominees and Team Leaders. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing our work with them during session 2014–15.

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## **Understanding Standards**

Plans for supporting centres who are delivering National 1 and 2 qualifications in session 2014–15 are still under discussion but it is likely that we will hold understanding standards events for centres during May 2015. These events will be open to any centres delivering qualifications at National 1 and 2 levels.

More information about upcoming events and other activities designed to support understanding standards across centres will be announced in future National 1 and 2 updates. Please keep an eye on the National 1 and 2 pages of our website for the latest news.

## **New freestanding Units at National 2 level**

Although the new National 2 Courses and Units will replace many of the existing Access 2 qualifications, there are also a number of Units at Access 2 level that will not be directly replaced. To ensure there is a comprehensive review of all the Access 2 Units, SQA has been undertaking a project to sweep up all remaining Access 2 Units and replace or refresh their content. Further updates on this work will be published on the National 1 and 2 pages of our website as this project progresses.

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