

## Physical Education



Welcome to the first edition of our new-look subject update, which replaces the letter you would have received previously. This update 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.

**Lesley Clark**  
Qualifications Manager

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## Contacting the team

**Lesley Clark**  
**Qualifications Manager**

Tel: 0345 213 5616

[lesley.clark@sqa.org.uk](mailto:lesley.clark@sqa.org.uk)

**Zoe Anderson**  
**Qualifications Officer**

Tel: 0345 213 5477

[zoe.anderson@sqa.org.uk](mailto:zoe.anderson@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

We have published a comparative document on the **subject page**, illustrating the changes made to the National 5 Course Assessment Specification.

The following Unit assessment support packs have been updated to ensure consistency with the revised mandatory documents and to ensure that the sample responses provided in the 'Judging evidence' tables are clear and appropriate.

- Physical Education: Factors Impacting on Performance — National 3, National 4 and National 5
- Physical Education: Performance Skills — National 3, National 4 and National 5

A high-level summary of these updates can be found in the 'Notification of changes' spreadsheet for National 3 to National 5 health and wellbeing, at **[www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges)**

### National 5 Marking Instructions

The Marking Instructions for the National 5 Course assessment were updated during this year's main diet. This was to assist markers by providing further clarity to ensure consistency across marking. The updated Marking Instructions will be available by the end of September 2014 and any relevant associated documents will be updated accordingly.

### New Higher

All 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 health and wellbeing at **[www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges)**

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## Support and guidance

### Assessment reports

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. 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 Physical Education**

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

### Common Questions

The Common Questions have been updated and now include some specific guidance to assist centres with the completion of the National 5 portfolio. They also contain a link to the document which outlines what centres should do if candidates do not attend their single performance event, or if they are injured during this event.

The common questions document can be accessed from the **Physical Education subject page**.

## 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:

- Team Leader, external assessment
- Markers, National 5 portfolio
- Markers, Higher question paper

For more information, please visit **[www.sqa.org.uk/cfeappointeevacancies](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfeappointeevacancies)**

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## **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.

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