



National Qualifications Support Team Mathematics, Lifeskills Mathematics and Numeracy

Action grid from meeting held on 10 October 2014

Ref.	Agenda/minute title	Notes of discussion/action agreed	Action	Date
1	Welcome and introductions	Qualifications Manager Elaine Riley (ER) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the NQST.		
2	Roles and remit of NQST confidentiality	ER advised that there will be an annual meeting supplemented with online discussions on the NQST Quickr place — a dedicated secure online forum for this team.		
3	NQST Quickr place demonstration	Qualifications Officer Dawn Watson (DW) demonstrated the NQST Quickr place.		
4	Verification activity 2013–14	Subject Implementation Manager Martin Brown (MB) provided an overview of verification activity in 2013–14 and advised that Key Messages were available on SQA's website . Members were advised of the proposed verification activity in 2014–15.		
5	Internal assessment	Members were advised that centres do not need to use the SQA assessment. If centres create their own re-assessment, they can choose to submit this for verification. It was intimated that, in response to queries from centres regarding the use of practice assessments, SQA intended to		

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		<p>issue advice that assessors should consider the potential impact on the validity of summative assessments if very similar practice assessments were used. There was some discussion on the nature and communication of such advice.</p> <p>Clarification was provided on the difference between numeracy as part of Core Skills profiles and the achievement of National 3–5 Numeracy Units. It was also explained that successful completion of the two questions in the National 5 Bridging Pack (or equivalent questions) could be used in conjunction with passes in the three National 5 Maths Units as evidence for the National 5 Numeracy Unit.</p>		
6	CPD	Members asked if SQA plans to provide CPD training (outwith nominee training) in writing assessments and marking specifically relating to the new Higher Maths and Advanced Higher Maths. ER to request clarification and update the NQST.	ER	Dec 14
7	Fallback from National 5 to National 4	ER to confirm whether in future years the process for notifying centres about candidates who are eligible for fallback from National 5 to National 4 would be the same as in 2014.	ER	Dec 14
8	National 3 Lifeskills Maths Units	<p>Members requested that consideration be given to amending the National 3 Lifeskills Maths Shapes, Space and Measures and Manage Money and Data Units to allow outcome thresholds to be applied.</p> <p>ER advised that no further changes to UASPs would be made during this academic year but that one centre had communicated its intention to amend the National 3 Lifeskills Maths Shapes, Space and Measures and Manage Money and Data UASPs and apply a threshold and submit this for prior verification. Once approved, the assessment should be available for use by centres on SQA's secure site under Centre Submitted Materials.</p>		

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9	Diet 2013/14	<p>Members raised the following points in relation to the draft 2014 External Assessment Report for National 5 Maths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ensure consistency between National 5 and Higher in relation to Equation of Straight Line. ◆ Consideration to be given to attaching percentages/values to the terms 'some', 'many' and 'most' in External Assessment Reports. ◆ Members asked that it be made clear where candidates would be penalised for using wrong formats in vector questions. <p>ER to discuss with National 5 Principal Assessor prior to report being published.</p> <p>ER advised that Generic Marking Principles are being developed to ensure consistency when marking Maths. A copy of the draft document will be posted in Library on the NQST Quickr site. It was noted that this is a guidance document only and recommendations about marking symbols, such as underlining mistakes, were not mandatory.</p>	<p>ER</p> <p>DW</p>	Nov 14
10	Overview of Understanding Standards activity	<p>ER gave an overview of the Understanding Standards strategy. Details can be found on SQA's website.</p> <p>The exemplification materials produced will be published on SQA's secure site in due course.</p>		
11	AOB	<p>The HEI representative agreed to check entry requirements with University Admissions to ascertain which courses National 5 Lifeskills Maths was acceptable for. ER will also check with SQA's HEI Liaison Manager.</p> <p>Members were asked for their opinion on whether a formulae list should be provided at Advanced Higher level. The majority of members indicated their preference would be that a formulae list</p>	HEI representative/ER	

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		<p>should not be provided.</p> <p>Members made the following comments in relation to whether there should be a Higher Lifeskills Maths Course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Progression would be good ◆ Universities may place higher value on Lifeskills Courses ◆ Discussion required on what would make suitable topics for a Higher level ◆ Consider consulting with business and financial institutions <p>ER advised that there are plans to amend the Lifeskills Added Value test for session 2015–16.</p> <p>The HEI representative asked members if they would be interested in HE running CPD for Statistics. This might be particularly welcome in relation to the project with AH statistics.</p>		