

Classical Studies



This update focuses on the development of Advanced Higher, with information relevant to your subject and details of the support available to you.

Updates regarding National 3 to National 5 and Higher can be found in the 'Updates and Announcements' section of the relevant **subject pages**. 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. You can also sign up for 'My Alerts', SQA's e-mail update service, that notifies you whenever content you are interested in is added or updated on SQA's website. Visit **www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts** to register.

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

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Qualifications Development Manager

The Qualifications Development Team

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Assessment support

Package 1 of Unit assessment support for Advanced Higher is available now from SQA's secure website. You can arrange access to secure materials through your SQA Co-ordinator; these must be stored securely and treated as confidential.

Over the coming year, we will publish the following assessment support materials for Advanced Higher Courses:

January 2015	Course Comparison document Guidance on the use of past papers
February 2015	Specimen Question Paper(s) and Marking Instructions Unit assessment support package 2
March 2015	Coursework information
April 2015	Unit assessment support package 3
December 2015	Exemplar Question Paper(s) and Marking Instructions

Updates to documents

We will make planned updates to the Advanced Higher documents, following the publication of Advanced Higher Specimen Question Papers, coursework information and Unit assessment support packs. We will also finalise package 1 of Unit assessment support, following the publication of packages 2 and 3.

The schedule for publishing the updated documents is as follows:

April 2015	Mandatory documents (Unit Specifications, Course Specifications and Course Assessment Specifications)
May 2015	Advice and guidance documents (Course and Unit Support Notes) and Unit assessment support packs

These updates are to ensure consistency between the assessment support materials, advice and guidance documents and the documents containing mandatory information.

The Notification of Changes spreadsheet will be updated for Advanced Higher following the publication of any revised documents.

Planned changes to Advanced Higher Classical Studies documents:

Course Assessment Specification

Some changes are planned to the mandatory content in the previously-published Course Assessment Specification. These changes are designed to improve the consistency of the amount of content required in different optional sections of the Course. They will also help improve the clarity of the relationship between the mandatory content and questions in the question papers.

These planned changes are minor and will result in, for example, the removal of some set texts from the Comedy, Satire and Society section. Changes will be confirmed in April 2015.

Unit Specifications

Some changes will also be made to Unit Specifications. These changes are as follows:

<i>Social Aspects of the Classical World Unit</i>	
Outcome 1	Assessment Standard 1.1 'Greek and Roman' to be replaced with 'Greek or Roman'
	Assessment Standard 1.2 'interpreting and explaining' to be replaced with 'analysing'
	Assessment Standard 1.3 'explaining, in depth, the value of sources' to be replaced with 'evaluating sources'
Outcome 2	Outcome 'in depth and well informed' to be removed
	Assessment Standard 2.1 To be amended to read: 'Using a range of sources of evidence to compare aspects of life in classical Greek or Roman societies with modern society'
	Assessment Standard 2.2 'Greek and Roman' to be amended to 'Greek or Roman'
	Assessment Standard 2.3 To be amended to read: 'Expressing a well-structured, reasoned conclusion, supported by evidence, about aspects of life in classical Greek or Roman societies'
Outcome 3	Outcome 'Greek and Roman' to be amended to 'Greek or Roman'
	Assessment Standard 3.1 'Greek and Roman' to be amended to 'Greek or Roman'; removal of '...and explaining relevant theoretical or abstract ideas'
	Assessment Standard 3.2 'Greek and Roman' to be amended to 'Greek or Roman' and '...contemporary society' to be replaced with '...the modern world'

<i>Researching the Classical World Unit</i>	
Outcome 1	Assessment Standard 1.1 'Identifying' to be amended to 'Justifying'
	Assessment Standard 1.3 Planned addition of 'in an organised way'
	Assessment Standard 1.5 Amend to become Assessment Standard 1.4 and 'understanding' to be replaced with 'explaining'
	Planned addition of new Assessment Standard 1.5: 'Correctly referencing a source using an appropriate referencing system'

It is important that staff delivering the new Advanced Higher Courses in session 2015-16 read the full suite of documents for their subjects, as well as those relating to assessment. We also advise staff attending the Advanced Higher support events to read these documents in preparation.

For more information on documents and assessment support materials, visit www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments

Looking ahead to 2015–16

The new Advanced Higher Courses go live from August 2015. SQA will continue to work closely with centres throughout the implementation of these Courses to ensure you have the support you need to prepare your learners for assessment.

We will also work closely with centres during the verification process to identify exemplar materials for Advanced Higher that can be shared with you, to help enhance your understanding of the standards required.

An implementation event for Classical Studies will take place on the following date:

- 30 January 2015 (Glasgow)

If you wish to attend this event, please follow this [link](#).

Contact SQA

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