

## English



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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts)** to register.

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

**Lee-Anne Murray**  
Qualifications Development Manager

---

---

## The Qualifications Development team

**Lee-Anne Murray**  
Qualifications Development Manager

**Aimee McNair**  
Qualifications Development Officer

## 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:

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

<b>April 2015</b>	Mandatory documents (Unit Specifications, Course Specifications and Course Assessment Specifications)
<b>May 2015</b>	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 English documents:

#### Course Specification and Course and Unit Support Notes

These will be updated to ensure consistency with all other documents.

---

---

## Course Assessment Specification

This document lists the two Components as question paper and portfolio. A decision has been taken to name each section within these Components as an individual Component in order to facilitate clearer reporting to candidates and centres. Therefore, there are now four Components.

Following publication of Specimen Question Papers and coursework, the Course Assessment Specification will be updated to provide final details on the structure and coverage of these four Components: question paper 1 (Literary Study), question paper 2 (Textual Analysis), portfolio: Writing, and project — dissertation. The update will reflect the decision that both the Literary Study and Textual Analysis question papers include poetry, prose fiction, prose non-fiction and drama as possible genre choices, and the total marks available for each paper is now 20.

## Unit Specifications

There will be minor clarifications to Assessment Standards.

***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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments)***

## Support and guidance

Unit assessment support packages 2 and 3 will exemplify combined and Unit-by-Unit approaches to assessment and gathering evidence.

The Unit assessment support packs give examples of how to generate evidence and make assessment judgements for the Outcomes and Assessment Standards of the Units of the Course.

## 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.

A series of implementation events for English will take place on the following dates:

- Monday 9 March (Glasgow)
- Wednesday 11 March (Stirling)
- Thursday 12 March (Edinburgh)
- Tuesday 17 March (Aberdeen)
- Tuesday 24 March (Inverness)

If you wish to attend these events please follow this [link](#).

---

---

---

## **Contact SQA**

For centre enquiries, please contact our Business Development and Customer Support Team on:

**Tel:** 0303 333 0330

**Fax:** 0354 213 5000

**E-mail enquiries:** [mycentre@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mycentre@sqa.org.uk)