

Modern 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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Qualifications Development Manager

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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 and Marking Instructions Unit assessment support package 2
March 2015	Coursework information
April 2015	Unit assessment support package 3
December 2015	Exemplar Question Paper 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 Modern Studies documents:

Unit Specifications

Some changes will be made to wording of Outcomes and Assessment Standards from the original Unit Specifications. These changes are to provide clarity regarding the skills required in Advanced Higher and to remove unnecessary duplication. The wordings will be published in the updated Unit Specification documents in April 2015.

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

Support and guidance

In November we published a further support document for Higher Modern Studies in conjunction with the Modern Studies Association. This document provides support on gathering and using sources for assessment. There is a selection of further exemplar sources which could be used as well as a series of links to potentially useful websites. These support materials are available on SQA's secure website alongside the Unit assessment support packs. Please contact your SQA Co-ordinator to gain access.

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 Modern Studies will take place on the following dates:

- 2 February 2015 (Edinburgh)
- 3 February 2015 (Aberdeen)
- 4 February 2015 (Glasgow)
- 6 February 2015 (Stirling)

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

Contact SQA

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