

To: SQA Co-ordinators
Secondary Schools and Further Education Colleges

Cc: SCIS
SQA Customer Support Managers
Directors of Education

Action by Recipient
Response required
✓ Note and pass on
None — update/information only

Contact Name: Jonathan Gillies at Glasgow
Direct Line: 0345 213 5482
E-mail: jonathan.gillies@sqa.org.uk

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Dear Colleague

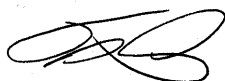
National Qualifications Update — National 3, 4 and 5 Biology Unit Assessment Support Packs

In response to feedback from practitioners, I have recently updated the Biology Unit assessment support packs to identify, for each question, the number of opportunities for candidates to make accurate statements for Assessment Standard 2.1 (Package 1 and Package 2) and Assessment Standard 2.4 (Package 1). This additional information has been added to the assessment grid (Appendix 2) in the relevant Unit assessment support packs, and the documents have been updated on the SQA Secure website. In order to ascertain whether or not candidates have passed Assessment Standard 2.1, centres can interpret the number of opportunities for candidates to make accurate KU statements as marks, and apply a 50% cut-off score to the total KU marks for each pack.

In addition, I have been made aware of some amendments that are required to the Biology Unit assessment support packs, and I have taken the opportunity to action these. The enclosed summary sheet lists these amendments. Centres are advised to use the updated Unit assessment support packs at the earliest opportunity. Any candidates that have already been assessed using the August 2013 version of the Unit assessment support packs will not be disadvantaged at Verification events during session 2013/14, and these candidates do not need to be re-assessed on the updated version.

I hope you find the contents of this update letter helpful.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Gillies
Qualifications Manager
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics