

## Care

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This update contains information on any recent updates to documents for Care along with further information and guidance.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Elaine McFadyen**  
Qualifications Manager



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## The Qualifications Team

**Elaine McFadyen**

Qualifications Manager

**Jennifer Morrison**

Qualifications Officer

**Mandi Donaldson**

Subject Implementation Manager

## Changes to documents in August and September

As part of our agreed schedule of planned changes to documents for session 2016–17, the following documents have been revised.

### National 5 Care Coursework

The following amendments apply to both the Course Assessment Task document and the General Assessment Information document:

The Introduction section now clarifies that all three sections of the project are included within the word count. There has also been clarification of the types of information that may be included within appendices or footnotes. This has also been added to the Information for Candidates section.

The Detailed Marking Instructions have been revised for assessment items 3a and 3b to remove the requirement that candidates must refer to use of their plan and/or log within their evaluation. Candidates should still have access to this document during their evaluation.

Additional information has also been added to Assessment conditions section in the General Assessment Information document to further clarify the conditions of the evaluation.

### Higher Care Coursework

The Detailed Marking Instructions in both the Course Assessment Task and General Assessment Information documents have had the following amendments: amendment to prompt E and an increase in marks allocated to this item. The requirement for 5 pieces of referenced information to be submitted for Item H has been removed and there has been a reduction in the marks allocated to this item from 5 marks to 2 marks to reflect this. Please note that Section H within the prompt and marks section of the Instructions for Candidates is showing as 3 marks allocated, which should read as 2 marks, and will be updated.

Additional information has been added to Instructions for Candidates section to give more guidance on the types of information and material that may be used in footnotes and appendices.

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The Notification of Changes spreadsheets have been updated to reflect the latest changes to documents. You can view these spreadsheets at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjectchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjectchanges)

### **Project briefs**

Please note that the same National 5 and Higher project briefs used in session 2015/16 will also be used in session 2016/17. The briefs can be downloaded from SQA's secure site.

## **Further information and guidance**

### **Changes to National Courses**

In September 2016, the Deputy First Minister announced that unit assessments will be removed from National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. These changes will be implemented over a three-year period and we have started to review how each course is assessed.

[Find out more about the changes to National Courses.](#)

### **What's next for Subject Review Reports?**

Following the Scottish Government decision to make changes to unit assessment in National Courses, we are reviewing current activities with regard to the Subject Review Reports and associated guidance notes.

Completed review report actions for 2016–17 will remain. Actions for 2017–18 onwards may be cancelled or rescheduled in light of the work associated with the revisions to National Courses, especially those relating to unit assessments.

Further information and subject-specific updates will continue to be communicated via Centre News and the subject web pages.

### **Course Reports**

We strongly recommend that you read the annual Course Reports for the subject(s) and levels you are teaching. These reports are produced following the annual diet of exams and are published by the end of October. The reports provide informed and valuable comment on the assessment for each component in the course, and include a summary of:

- candidate performance in the course assessment
- areas in which candidates performed well
- areas which candidates found demanding

The reports also contain advice on preparing future candidates, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course Reports will be available from the relevant subject pages of our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects)

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## Verification Key Messages

Key messages from rounds 1 and 2 of verification in session 2015–16 are available on the relevant subject pages of our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects). You can access them from the 'Verification and Course Reports' tab.

## Looking ahead to session 2016–17

### National Qualification Support Team

Ahead of the autumn meeting of the Care National Qualification Support Team (NQST) we would like to add to the existing membership.

NQSTs are subject-specific stakeholder consultation groups that feed back to SQA on the internal and external assessment of National Qualifications.

These groups communicate via secure online discussion forums as well as an annual face-to-face meeting.

For more information and to express an interest in joining the team, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/nqst](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqst)

### Marker recruitment opportunities for 2017

We are now accepting Marker applications from teaching professionals to contribute to the 2017 exam diet. If you are interested in joining us as a Marker, please visit the [appointee opportunities](#) section of our website where you will find a Marker advert for all subjects and levels, with details of the role.

Becoming a Marker helps to increase your awareness of the demands of course assessment and provides excellent professional and personal development.

Please check [www.sqa.org.uk/appointees](http://www.sqa.org.uk/appointees) regularly for other appointee opportunities which may be of interest to you.

### Understanding Standards programme

Our Understanding Standards programme will continue in the coming session and will include Nominee training events, subject-specific course events and the publication of further Understanding Standards materials.

### Understanding Standards course events 2016–17

We are running a programme of subject-specific Understanding Standards events from October 2016 until January 2017. The majority of these events will focus on the standards required for course assessment at Advanced Higher.

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For more information and to book your place, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/nqevents](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqevents). Please note that for each subject there is a maximum of one place per centre.

### Understanding Standards materials

Understanding Standards materials contain real examples of candidate evidence from course and unit assessments, along with a commentary that explains why the evidence has or has not met the assessment standards. These materials are a really useful resource for helping you to strengthen your understanding of the standards required for assessment.

We will continue to publish new Understanding Standards materials throughout the coming session and you can access them from the following locations:

<b>SQA Understanding Standards website</b> ( <a href="http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk">www.understandingstandards.org.uk</a> )	<b>SQA Secure website</b> ( <a href="https://secure.sqa.org.uk">https://secure.sqa.org.uk</a> )
Candidate evidence and commentaries for <b>externally assessed</b> components of course assessment (including question papers).	Candidate evidence and commentaries for unit assessment and <b>internally assessed</b> components of course assessment.

You can arrange access to our secure website through your SQA co-ordinator. Any materials downloaded from our secure website must be stored securely and treated as confidential.

### Extra support to help you deliver your courses

As outlined in the report from the Working Group on Assessment and National Qualifications, we are expanding the support available to centres. In addition to our ongoing Understanding Standards activities, we will provide the following support in 2016–17:

#### Continuing professional development (CPD)

We will continue to offer subject-specific CPD support at a local authority, independent school or college level, subject to request. This involves an experienced SQA appointee providing advice and guidance on any areas of concern that are not already addressed by the Understanding Standards programme.

Please note that CPD requests should be made by the appropriate representative from the local authority, independent school or college. For each request we will agree with the representative the content to be covered and the most appropriate way to deliver the support, eg in person, by webinar or by video conference/teleconference.

CPD requests can be made at [www.sqa.org.uk/cpdfom](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cpdfom)

#### Subject Implementation Manager

Mandi Donaldson is now the Subject Implementation Manager for NQ Care. Mandi works in Further Education and is also the Care Higher Principal Assessor. She has worked with SQA in a variety of roles and has been involved in the development, marking and verification of Care

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for many years. Subject Implementation Managers support the delivery of National Qualifications via tailored sessions. If you feel that this type of support would be of benefit, please complete a CPD request form [www.sqa.org.uk/cpdform](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cpdform)

## Stay informed

### Subscribe to Centre News

Our weekly Centre News newsletter contains the latest news and updates for centres delivering SQA qualifications. It also includes subject-specific news and a regular reminder of key dates during the session.

To subscribe, visit <http://mailer.sqa.org.uk>

### Visit your subject pages

Make sure you regularly visit your subject pages, where you can access documents and assessment support materials for your courses, Verification Key Messages and information on coursework. You will also find the latest news updates for your courses in the 'Updates and announcements' section.

Visit [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects)

### Sign up to MyAlerts

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YouTube: [SQAonline](https://www.youtube.com/SQAonline)

#### Contact us

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

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