

# Updates to Unit assessment support packs for National 3 to Higher Chemistry Courses



We have updated some Unit assessment support for National 3 to Higher Courses. This follows the revisions made to Unit Specifications in April 2015, and feedback gathered from centres during session 2014–15.

Updated Unit assessment support materials are now available for Chemistry National 3 to Higher. The updated materials are dated 'August 2015'.

Please refer to the following 'Notification of Changes' tables for your curricular area, as these provide a summary of the changes to each document and include details of the revised version numbers.

- [Sciences National 3 to National 5 Notification of Changes Log](#)
- [Sciences Higher Notification of Changes Log](#)

Notification of Changes tables for all subjects are available from [www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges)

The use of SQA-produced Unit assessments is not mandatory; however, if you are using them, we strongly encourage you to use the most up-to-date versions. Please note that you may continue to use existing versions of the Unit assessments until the end of session 2015–16 and both will be accepted for verification purposes.

The updated Unit assessment support materials are available from SQA's secure website and you can arrange access to them through your SQA Co-ordinator.

Further information on the reasons for the changes to Unit assessment support, and guidance on the next steps to take, is provided below.

Subject	Reason for change	Next steps for centres
National 3 Chemistry	<p>Unit assessment support packs have been revised to make them more consistent both across the level and between levels.</p> <p>In some cases the layout has been reformatted and clarification has been added throughout the documents, based on feedback from centres and issues identified through verification.</p> <p>For all Unit assessment support packs, the amendments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor amendments to wording and formatting throughout the document to increase clarity.</li> <li>• Repetition removed from the 'assessment' and 'assessment conditions' sections.</li> <li>• Clarification that when assessment is oral, assessor questions and comments are required in addition to candidate responses.</li> <li>• Clarification that the assessment of a particular Assessment Standard cannot be split between activities.</li> <li>• Outcome 1 — an example of a suitable template has been included.</li> <li>• Assessment Standard 1.3 — clarification of the requirement for processing and presenting and of the particular requirements if graphing packages are used.</li> <li>• Assessment Standard 1.5 — requires evaluation of procedures or one improvement.</li> <li>• Assessment Standard 2.1 — clarification that 50% in <b>each</b> key area is not required and that key areas cannot be split across assessment activities.</li> </ul> <p>The following specific amendments have been made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chemical Changes and Structure package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b> Slight changes to the following 2.1 and 2.4 questions: question 2, 3, 6, 7a. Clarification added to marking guidance.</li> <li>• <b>Nature's Chemistry package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b> clarification added to marking guidance</li> </ul>	Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chemistry in Society package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b> Assessment Standards 2.1 and 2.4 — minor amendment to question 3b. clarification added to marking guidance.</li> <li>• <b>Chemistry package 2: combined approach</b> Minor changes to the 2.1 and 2.4 questions: <i>Chemical Changes and Structure</i> — 6b and 6c; <i>Nature's Chemistry</i> — 2 and 3; <i>Chemistry in Society</i> — 3. Clarification added to marking guidance.</li> </ul>	
National 4 Chemistry	<p>Unit assessment support packs have been revised to make them more consistent both across the level and between levels.</p> <p>In some cases the layout has been reformatted and clarification has been added throughout the documents, based on feedback from centres and issues identified through verification.</p> <p>For all Unit assessment support packs, the amendments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor amendments to wording and formatting throughout the document to increase clarity.</li> <li>• Repetition removed from the assessment and assessment conditions sections.</li> <li>• Clarification that when assessment is oral, assessor questions and comments are required in addition to candidate responses.</li> <li>• Assessment Standard 1.3 — clarification in terms of the requirement for correct units.</li> <li>• Assessment Standard 1.4 — clarification of the requirement for processing and presenting and the particular requirements if graphing packages are used.</li> <li>• Assessment Standard 1.6 — requires evaluation of procedures or one improvement.</li> <li>• Assessments Standard 2.1 — clarification that 50% in <b>each</b> key area is not required and that key areas cannot be split across assessment activities.</li> </ul> <p>The following specific amendments have been made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chemical Changes and Structure package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b> Slight changes to the following 2.1 and 2.4 questions: question 1 graph and 1c; question 4 picture; question 6 solubility table. Clarification added to marking guidance. Outcome 1 — suggested experiments modified.</li> </ul>	Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.

	<p>Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3 — suggested research investigations modified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Nature’s Chemistry package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b>            Assessment Standards 2.1 and 2.4 assessment — question 3 numbering changed.            Assessment Standards 2.1 and 2.4 marking guidance updated.         </li> <li> <b>Chemistry in Society package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b>            Assessment Standards 2.1 and 2.4 marking guidance updated.         </li> <li> <b>Chemistry package 2: combined approach</b>  <i>Chemical Changes and Structure</i>: question 1a has been separated into two parts; question 4 — ‘more acidic’ removed as a correct response.  <i>Nature’s Chemistry</i>: question 1aii — ‘breathing’ is not a correct response; question 2 — headings in the table corrected; question 3b — ‘dies’ is not a correct response; question 4 changed from ‘describe’ to ‘name a process’.  <i>Chemistry in Society</i>: question 1 a and b — wording of the questions has been changed; question 6 — changed from ‘describe’ to ‘state what could be used’.         </li> </ul>	
National 5 Chemistry	<p>Unit assessment support packs have been revised to make them more consistent both across the level and between levels.</p> <p>In some cases the layout has been reformatted and clarification has been added throughout the documents, based on feedback from centres and issues identified through verification.</p> <p>The removal of Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3 will reduce the volume of assessment required for National 5.</p> <p>For all Unit assessment support packs, the amendments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3 have been removed. Assessment Standard 2.4 becomes 2.2.</li> <li>All tasks and activities have been amended to reflect this change and the recording documentation has been amended.</li> <li>Clarification to Outcome 1 including:</li> </ul>	Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.

- Assessment Standard 1.1 — clarification that the words dependent and independent variable are not required
- calculating averages moved from Assessment Standard 1.3 to 1.4
- Assessment Standard 1.4 — requirement for processing and presenting and particular requirements if graphing packages have been used
- key, diagram and flow chart formats, summary removed from Assessment Standard 1.4
- Assessment Standard 1.6 amended for clarity
- repeating measurements and calculating averages added to candidate guide
- recommendation for prior verification if significant changes are made to the Assessment Standard 2.1 questions

The following specific amendments have been made:

- **Chemical Changes and Structure package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach**

Clarification to Outcome 2 including:

- question 5b has been removed and 4d added
- clarification regarding which numerical answers require units
- marking guidance and grid amended

- **Nature's Chemistry package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach**

Repeating measurements and calculating averages added to candidate guide.

Question 4 — change to stem of question.

- **Chemistry in Society package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach**

Assessment Standard 2.1: slight changes to the numbering of the questions.

Clarification to the marking guidance for some questions.

- **Chemistry package 2: combined approach**

Repeating measurements and calculating averages added to candidate guide.

Assessment Standard 2.2 — question changed significantly.

Assessment Standard 2.1 questions — clarification to the marking guidance.

<p>Higher Chemistry</p>	<p>Unit assessment support packs have been revised to make them more consistent both across the level and between levels.</p> <p>In some cases the layout has been reformatted and clarification has been added throughout the documents, based on feedback from centres and issues identified through verification.</p> <p>For all Unit assessment support packs, the amendments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor amendments to wording and formatting throughout the document to increase clarity and for consistency and style across other Unit assessment support packs.</li> <li>• Clarification that when assessment is oral, assessor questions and comments are required in addition to candidate responses.</li> <li>• Assessment Standards updated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Assessment Standard 1.1 — requirement for a hypothesis removed</li> <li>— Assessment Standard 1.3 — clarification in terms of the requirement for correct units</li> <li>— Assessment Standard 1.4 — clarification of the requirement for processing and presenting and the particular requirements if graphing packages are used</li> <li>— Assessment Standard 1.6 — requires evaluation of procedures or two improvements</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The following specific amendments have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chemical Changes and Structure package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b>  Assessment Standard 2.1 — assessment updated in terms of formatting, layout and wording. Periodicity key area questions have been separated from the 'structure and bonding' key area questions which involved changing some question numbers.  Question 8b(ii) has been modified.  Outcome 2 — marking guidance updated.  Assessment grid updated.  Assessment Standard 2.2 — assessment question 10b average electronegativity value changed to 2.4.</li> <li>• <b>Nature's Chemistry package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b>  Outcome 2 — marking guidance updated.  Problem solving assessment grid updated.</li> </ul>	<p>Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.</p>
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	<p>Assessment Standard 2.1 — assessment question 1a(iii) and 6b updated in addition to some layout/formatting/wording changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chemistry in Society package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b>  Outcome 2 — marking guidance updated including question 5 to reflect the fluorine bond enthalpy in the new data book.  Problem solving assessment grid updated.  Assessment Standard 2.1 — question 9a changed.  Assessment Standard 2.1 — minor formatting changes made to questions 1, 4, 6 and 10.</li> <li>• <b>Researching Chemistry package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach</b>  Assessment Standard 2.2 — clarification of the requirement for units.</li> <li>• <b>Chemistry package 2: combined approach</b>  Outcome 2 — marking guidance updated.  Assessment Standard 2.1 questions — minor changes.  Repeating measurements and calculating averages added to candidate guide.  Additional details showing what an evaluation could include.  Clarification in terms of annotating candidate evidence with where Assessment Standards have been met and the need to reference this clearly on recording documentation.</li> <li>• <b>Chemistry package 3: portfolio approach</b>  Assessment Standard 2.1 — clarification in terms of 50% in each key area not being required.  Clarification in terms of annotating candidate evidence with where Assessment Standards have been met and the need to reference this clearly on recording documentation.  <i>Researching Chemistry</i>: Assessment Standard 2.2 — clarification of the requirement for units.</li> </ul>	
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