

Childcare and Development



This update contains information on any recent updates to documents for Childcare and Development 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



The Qualifications Team

Elaine McFadyen

Qualifications Manager

Jennifer Morrison

Qualifications Officer

Rae Little

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.

Higher Childcare and Development Coursework

An amendment has been made to the Detailed Marking Instructions for prompt C in both the Course Assessment Task and the General Assessment Information. This is to reflect the possible allocation of marks for this prompt.

Project briefs

Please note that the same 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.

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

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.

Skills for Work Early Education and Childcare Review

The review of the National 4 and National 5 Early Education and Childcare Skills for Work courses is now underway and the first meeting of the Qualifications Design Team (QDT) took place at the end of September. A scoping report was completed last session about the level of change required for the courses and as part of this, centres were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the changes or improvements that they felt should be made. The response level to this was high, giving an excellent starting point for the QDT. All units within the courses will be updated to reflect changes in practice and legislation and we anticipate that these will be available for delivery next session, with a launch in Spring 2017.

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

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. You can access them from the 'Verification and Course Reports' tab.

Looking ahead to session 2016–17

National Qualification Support Team

Ahead of the Childcare and Development National Qualification Support Team (NQST) meeting, 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

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 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.

For more information and to book your place, visit 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:

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

Subject Implementation Manager

Rae Little is now the Subject Implementation Manager for Childcare and Development. Rae works in Further Education and is also the Childcare and Development Higher Principal Assessor. She has held many roles with SQA including developing qualifications and carrying out External Verification. Rae is available to offer support to centres 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/cpdfom

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

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Contact us

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

Tel: 0303 333 0330

Fax: 0345 213 5000

E-mail: mycentre@sqa.org.uk
