

ESOL



This update contains information on any recent updates to documents for ESOL 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.

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The Qualifications Team

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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.

Document	Description of Change(s)	Next Steps for Centres
National 3 UASP 3 ESOL in Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">additional question in assessment task for outcome 1, reading	Centres are advised to download new copies of revised documents.
National 4 UASP 1 ESOL in Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">minor revisions made in judging evidence table, column 3 for assessment standards 1.2 and 2.3minor amendment made to question 5 in reading taskwording changes made in outcome 2, writing task	Centres are advised to be aware of these changes.
National 4 UASP 2 combined approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">minor wording amendment made to outcome 4, speaking task	Centres are advised to be aware of these changes.
Higher All UASPs containing assessment of writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">minor wording changes made in judging evidence table — addition of 'effectively' in assessment standard 2.2	Centres are advised to be aware of these changes.
National 5 Course Assessment Task and General Assessment Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">additional guidance provided in introduction and General Marking Principles sectionone main aspect removed for speaking and listening performance: 'Ability to initiate, support and maintain the development of the interaction'additional advice for assessors provided in insertion of Evidence to be gathered sectionvarious minor changes made to Detailed Marking Instructions for the speaking performance	Centres are advised to download new copies of revised documents.
Higher Course Assessment Task and General Assessment Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">minor wording amendments in Detailed Marking Instructions for speaking tableinsertion of Evidence to be gathered section	Centres are advised to download new copies of revised documents.

Course and Unit Support Notes

In response to practitioner feedback Course and Unit Support Notes at levels N3–Higher have been updated. Please see the May 2016 subject update for further detail.

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/ngsubjectchanges

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.

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.

Removal of exemplar question papers

Exemplar question papers were created as a revision resource for learners during the implementation of the new Higher and Advanced Higher National Qualifications. As we now have two years' worth of past papers for new Higher as well as a specimen question paper for each subject with an exam, the exemplar question papers will be removed from our website in the week commencing 24 October 2016. Associated guidance documents and guidance on the use of past paper questions documents will also be removed at this time.

The Advanced Higher exemplar question papers and associated guidance will remain for session 2016–17 and will be removed from the website in July 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 commentary 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

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 and the publication of further Understanding Standards materials.

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). Exemplars of report writing from the National 5 and Higher 2016 papers will be available in due course.	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

Webinars

Two webinars took place for N5 and Higher ESOL in September. The recordings and transcripts will be available on the secure site by the end of October. A webinar from November 2015 covering N2–Higher is currently available on the secure site.

<https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Understanding-Standards-Materials/ESOL>.

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

Further information

Learning and teaching material

Learning and teaching material for Access 2 to Higher has been re-purposed so that it aligns with the new National Qualifications. National 2–Higher learning and teaching material is available on the subject webpages in the Support Materials section for each level.

Valid units

Please note the following units are still live and do not have an end date:

- English for Speakers of Other Languages: An Introduction to Beginner English Literacies 1 (F1AF 08)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages: An Introduction to Beginner English Literacies 2 (F1AG 08)

Unit end dates

Please note that candidates can **no longer** be entered for the following units:

- DV34 09, DV34 10, DV34 11, DV34 12 – Everyday Communication
- F1AD 08, F1AD 09, F1AD 10 – Transactional Contexts
- F1AE 08, F1AE 09, F1AE 10 – Work and study-related contexts
- DV35 11, DV35 12 – Work-related Contexts
- DV36 11, DV36 12 – Study-related Contexts

New SCQF level 2 unit

A new ESOL unit at SCQF level 2 has been developed titled Preparation for Literacy. It is designed as a precursor to the National 2 Beginner Literacies units. The unit specification is available here <http://www.sqa.org.uk/files/nu/UnitN2ESOLPrepforLiteracy.pdf>. There are two unit assessment support packs to support this unit. Both are now available on SQA's secure website <https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/ESOL>

The *Preparation for Literacy* Unit complements the existing ESOL framework at National 2 which has suitable entry points for all ESOL candidates new to learning English; those who need to develop their basic reading and writing skills as well as those already familiar with the Roman alphabet who are ready to develop all four skills. The units at SCQF level 2 are designed to support and recognise achievement of candidates in schools, colleges and education training providers in these initial stages of learning English. Appropriate learning support materials are available under the Support materials tab on this link

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/73004.html>

SCQF Level 2	
National 2	Access 2
ESOL: Preparation for Literacy	
	ESOL: An Introduction to Beginner English Literacies 1
	ESOL: An Introduction to Beginner English Literacies 2
ESOL for Everyday Life: Reading and Writing	
ESOL for Everyday Life: Listening and Speaking	
ESOL in Context: Reading and Writing	
ESOL in Context: Listening and Speaking	

Common questions

The ESOL common questions document has been updated. This document contains useful advice and guidance on both internal and external assessment and can be found on the [ESOL subject page](#).

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

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