

Updates to Unit assessment support packs for National 3 to Higher Environmental Science 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 National 4, National 5 and 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

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 4 Environmental Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Science: Living Environment package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach Minor formatting changes made and numbering of one question amended, since the numbering did not follow usual convention for questions. • Environmental Science: Sustainability package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach Formatting of numbers in some questions has been corrected, since the numbering did not follow usual convention for questions. Wording of 1(b)(ii) corrected to remove an ambiguity highlighted through verification. 	Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.

<p>National 5 Environmental Science</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Science: Living Environment package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach • Environmental Science: Sustainability package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach • Environmental Science: Earth’s Resources package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach • Environmental Science package 2: combined approach • Environmental Science package 3: portfolio approach <p>Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3 and all related activities removed. Assessment Standard 2.4 renumbered as 2.2. Activity 3 renumbered as Activity 2.</p> <p>The removal of Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3 followed considerable stakeholder feedback and results in a reduction in the volume of assessment at National 5 level.</p>	<p>Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.</p>
<p>Higher Environmental Science</p>	<p>The numbering of questions and responses in the marking guidance for all of the Unit assessment support packs below were amended to conform to usual question conventions. Issues with diagrams and layout of questions have been addressed following feedback from stakeholders. Specific changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Science: Living Environment package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach Minor corrections to wording of questions and diagram for question 2 fixed so that it can be read and printed. Numbering of questions corrected. • Environmental Science: Sustainability package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach Corrections to numbering of questions and marking guidance. • Environmental Science: Earth’s Resources package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach Numbering of questions and marking guidance corrected. Corrections to layout of some questions. • Environmental Science package 2: combined approach Numbering of questions and marking guidance corrected. Issues with question layout fixed. 	<p>Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.</p>