

Accounting, Administration and IT, Business, Business Management, Economics



This update contains information relevant to your subject and details of the support available to you.

We also publish updates on the new National Courses in the 'Updates and Announcements' section of the relevant **subject pages**. I would encourage you to make regular use of our subject pages, where you will find support documents, answers to common questions, and links to other areas of interest. You can also sign up for 'My Alerts', SQA's e-mail update service, that notifies you whenever content you are interested in is added or updated on SQA's website. Visit **www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts** to register.

I hope you find the following update helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

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Documents and assessment support materials

Assessment support materials are now available for the new National 1 to Advanced Higher Qualifications, marking a significant milestone. It is important that you read the full suite of documents for your Course, as well as those relating to assessment.

Further information on documents and assessment support materials can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments

Updates to documents

Advanced Higher documents

We are making planned updates to Advanced Higher documents. This follows the publication of Advanced Higher Specimen Question Papers, Coursework information and Unit assessment support packs. The updated Advanced Higher **Unit Specifications**, **Course Specifications** and **Course Assessment Specifications** are available now.

The key changes to the Advanced Higher Course Assessment Specifications are:

Accounting

The total marks available for the Course assessment remains at 200 marks, but the weighting of the Course Components have changed from question paper (150)/project (50) to question paper (140)/project (60).

Business Management

The duration of the question paper has changed from 2 hours and 30 minutes to 2 hours and 45 minutes. The marks for the project Component of the Course assessment have changed from 50 marks to 40 marks, changing the total marks available for the Course assessment from 130 marks to 120 marks.

Economics

The marks for the project Component of the Course assessment have changed from 50 marks to 40 marks, changing the total marks available for the Course assessment from 130 marks to 120 marks.

We will also update the Advanced Higher **Course and Unit Support Notes**, and finalise all packages of Advanced Higher **Unit assessment support** by the end of May 2015.

Further details of changes to Advanced Higher documents are outlined in the January 2015 subject updates, which can be found within the 'Updates and announcements' section on the relevant **subject pages**. 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/cfesubjectchanges**

Support and guidance

Accounting

There are now Accounting Terminology Resource Banks available in the 'Related Information' section on the **Accounting subject page**. There are separate documents for National 5 and Higher.

Appointee opportunities

SQA welcomes applications from teachers/lecturers wishing to be involved in various roles including writing, checking and marking assessments. For more information, please visit **<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42986.2298.html>**

Looking ahead to 2015/16

Accounting terminology will be updated to take account of International Accounting Standards within the Economics, Business Management and Administration and IT Courses. This will involve amendments to Course Specifications, Unit Specifications, Unit assessments, and Course and Unit Support Notes, where appropriate.

Minor amendments for clarification will be made across all subjects.

Understanding Standards

In June 2015, we will publish further Understanding Standards packs for National 1 to Higher, which will contain candidate evidence and commentaries for Unit assessment and internally assessed components of Course assessment.

The Understanding Standards programme will continue throughout session 2015/16, and will include Nominee training events, Understanding Standards events for National 5 and Higher, and Understanding Standards packs.

Nominee training events will take place on the following dates:

- September 2015
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Understanding Standards events for Higher will take place on the following dates:

- November 2015 to January 2016

For more information on Understanding Standards, visit www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards

Continuing Professional Development support

We will continue to offer subject-specific CPD support for new National Courses, where particular areas of concern are identified that are not already addressed by the Understanding Standards programme.

From August 2015, we will also offer subject-specific CPD support to assist teachers and lecturers with the implementation of the new Advanced Higher Courses.

Use of National 4 Added Value Units

From August 2015 onwards, you will have the option of developing your own National 4 Added Value Unit assessments for use with candidates. Please note that this is not a requirement and you can continue to use SQA-produced Added Value Unit assessments until further notice. Most SQA-produced Added Value Unit assessments already allow considerable flexibility in the choice of a context for the assessment, while some provide a context that you can change.

Further information can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/unitassessment

Advanced Higher Exemplar Question Papers

In December 2015, we will publish Exemplar Question Papers for all new Advanced Higher Courses that include a question paper as part of the Course assessment.

Further information on Exemplar Question Papers, and other available assessment support materials, can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments

Contact SQA

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