

English



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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Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

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Qualifications Manager

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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.

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.

There are no prescribed texts for the new Advanced Higher English Course. Centres are free to select any appropriate literary texts for use in learning and teaching, in Unit assessment, and in preparation for the Literary Study question paper. Course and Unit Support Notes republished at the end of May 2015 will include advice on selecting appropriate literary texts, and a list of possible authors.

Texts previously studied for Advanced Higher English are still suitable for the new Course, and a list of these can be found in the prescribed text section of the Conditions and Arrangements document for the existing Advanced Higher English Course. This can be accessed on SQA's website until July 2015.

Further details of changes to Advanced Higher documents are outlined in the **January 2015 subject update**. 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

National 3 to Higher documents

We have updated three published documents.

The National 5 Literacy Unit contains one minor amendment to Assessment Standards 1.2 and 2.2 to bring the Unit into line with the National 4 Literacy Unit. The Assessment Standards have changed *from Explaining a range of aspects to Explaining a range of aspects, including audience and purpose*.

The Unit assessment support packs will also be updated to reflect this amendment.

There has been a minor amendment to the National 5 and Higher Course Assessment Specifications to clarify that the Course assessment includes two question papers. There are no changes to any other content in these documents.

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

Please note the following support documents which are available:

- **Common Questions for English** — this document contains useful advice and guidance on Unit and Course assessment as well as information about Literacy Units.
- **Additional Guidance** documents for new **Higher** and **National 5**. These documents contain exemplification and commentaries for Folio writing and Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation. Both documents are available on the secure site. Please contact your SQA coordinator for access.

Looking ahead to 2015/16

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 for English will take place on the following dates:

- 23 September 2015 for National 3 to Higher
 - October 2015 for Advanced Higher (date to be confirmed)
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Understanding Standards events for Higher English will take place on the following dates:

- 16 January 2016 (Glasgow)
- 19 January 2016 (Edinburgh)
- 20 January 2016 (Aberdeen)
- 23 January 2016 (Stirling)

An NQ Literacy event covering Understanding Standards and delivery will take place in November 2015 (date to be confirmed).

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

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

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