

## Environmental Science



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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts)** to register.

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

**Andy Shield**  
Qualifications Manager

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## The Qualifications Team

**Andy Shield**  
Qualifications Manager

**Sheron Ross**  
Qualifications Officer

## Documents and assessment support materials

Assessment support materials are now available for the new National 3 to 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments)

### Updates to documents

#### National 3 to Higher documents

We updated some mandatory documents in April for Environmental Science National 5.

One major change is the removal of Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3 from the National 5 Environmental Science **Unit Specifications**. Assessment Standard 2.4: Problem Solving has been renumbered as Assessment Standard 2.2. The following updated **Unit Specifications** are available now:

- *Environmental Science: Living Environment* H24P 75
- *Environmental Science: Earth's Resources* H24R 75
- *Environmental Science: Sustainability* H24S 75

Based on considerable stakeholder feedback, removal of these Assessment Standards will reduce the assessment burden at National 5. Updated National 5 **Course and Unit Support Notes**, amended for the removal of Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3, will be published by the end of May 2015. Please note that Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3 are being retained at National 3 and National 4 levels.

In addition, a number of typographical errors have been corrected in the National 5 and Higher **Course Assessment Specifications** and will also be corrected in the **Course and Unit Support Notes** in May.

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An overview of the changes to the **mandatory** documents for Environmental Science is provided in the following table:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Change</b>
Environmental Science	National 5	Unit Specifications — <i>Environmental Science: Living Environment</i> ; <i>Environmental Science: Earth's Resources</i> ; and <i>Environmental Science: Sustainability</i>	Removal of Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3. Renumbering of Assessment Standard 2.4 to Assessment Standard 2.2.
Environmental Science	National 5	Course Assessment Specification	Typographical errors corrected.
Environmental Science	Higher	Course Assessment Specification	Typographical errors corrected.

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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges)

## Looking ahead to 2015/16

### Understanding Standards

In June 2015, we will publish further Understanding Standards packs for Environmental Science, 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. Relevant Understanding Standards packs and prior verified assessments will be reviewed in due course.

A Nominee training event for Environmental Science will take place in September.

Understanding Standards events for National 5 and Higher Environmental Science will take place towards the end of 2015.

For more information on Understanding Standards, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards](http://www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards)

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## Continuing Professional Development support

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

## 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/unitassessment)

### Contact SQA

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

**Tel:** 0303 333 0330

**Fax:** 0345 213 5000

**E-mail:** [mycentre@sqa.org.uk](mailto:mycentre@sqa.org.uk)

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