

Modern Studies



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.

Hilary Rutherford (previous Qualifications Manager) has moved posts within SQA. As the new Qualifications Manager for Modern Studies I look forward to working with you in future. I hope you find the following update helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Jillian Hendry
Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

Jillian Hendry
Qualifications Manager

Duncan Cox
Qualifications Officer

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.

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 are updating some published documents in April and May. An updated Higher **Course Assessment Specification** (CAS) is available now for Modern Studies.

The mandatory content outlined in the Higher CAS has been amended to provide more clarity to centres. This does not mean that there has been an increase in the mandatory content of the Course but is intended to provide more exemplification of requirements.

The updated CAS is accompanied by a comparison document. The comparison document clearly illustrates what changes have been made and will help you to quickly and easily identify the updates. Comparison documents are available from the [subject pages](#) and sit alongside the 'clean' versions of the updated documents.

Where required, Course and Unit Support Notes will be updated to correspond with these changes. Updated Course and Unit Support Notes will be published by the end of May 2015.

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

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, Course assessment events for National 5 and Higher, and Understanding Standards packs.

The Nominee training event for Modern Studies will take place on the following date:

- Tuesday, 29 September 2015

Course assessment events for National 5 and Higher Modern Studies will take place in the autumn.

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

CPD 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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