

Physics



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 3 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

National 3 to Higher documents

We updated some mandatory Physics documents in April.

One major change is the removal of Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3 from the National 5 Physics **Unit Specifications**. Assessment Standard 2.4: Problem Solving has been renumbered as Assessment Standard 2.2. Based on considerable stakeholder feedback, removal of these Assessment Standards will reduce the assessment burden at National 5. Updated **Unit Specifications** for the following are available now:

- *Physics: Dynamics and Space* H258 75
- *Physics: Electricity and Energy* H256 75
- *Physics: Waves and Radiation* H25A 75

Please note that Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3 are being retained at National 3 and National 4 levels.

In addition to the updated National 5 **Unit Specifications**, the Higher Physics **Course Assessment Specification** (CAS) and the National 5 Physics **Course Assessment Specification** (CAS) have also been updated and are now available on the [subject pages](#). The CAS documents have been amended to include additional clarification of Course content and to make wording consistent throughout the documents.

An overview of the changes to the **mandatory** documents for Physics is provided below:

Subject	Level	Document	Change
Physics	National 5	Unit Specifications — <i>Physics: Dynamics and Space</i> ; <i>Physics: Electricity and Energy</i> ; and <i>Physics: Waves and Radiation</i>	Removal of Assessment Standards 2.2 and 2.3. Renumbering of Assessment Standard 2.4 as Assessment Standard 2.2.
Physics	National 5	Course Assessment Specification	Consistency of wording of mandatory key areas and additional clarification added.
Physics	Higher	Course Assessment Specification	Consistency of wording of mandatory key areas and additional clarification added.

Course and Unit Support Notes (CUSN) for National 4 to Higher have also been amended for consistency and to clarify Course content and will be published by the end of May 2015.

Unit assessment support packs (UASPs) for Higher Physics will be updated and will be published on SQA's secure site by the end of August 2015. The purpose of the updates to UASPs is to provide further clarification based on feedback received from practitioners and to correct issues with questions and marking information.

Relevant Understanding Standards packs and prior verified assessments will be reviewed in due course.

The Notification of Changes spreadsheets for National 3 to Higher have been updated to reflect the latest changes to documents. You can view these spreadsheets at www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges

Advanced Higher documents

SQA is 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 draft Advanced Higher **Unit Specifications** were originally published in 2013. Following feedback and development of assessment support materials, changes were required to **Unit Specifications**. The following changes have been made to the *Physics: Rotational Motion and Astrophysics*, *Physics: Quanta and Waves* and *Physics: Electromagnetism* **Unit Specifications**:

- Outcome 1 has had minor changes to wording of Assessment Standards.
- Outcome 2:
 - Assessment Standard 2.1 has been reworded to 'Making accurate statements and giving clear descriptions/explanations'.
 - Assessment Standard 2.2 and 2.3 have been removed.
 - Assessment Standard 2.4 therefore becomes 2.2.
 - In new Assessment Standard 2.2, 'selecting information' has been removed from problem solving types.

Transfer of evidence

Since the Outcomes and Assessment Standards are the same for the *Physics: Rotational Motion and Astrophysics*, *Physics: Quanta and Waves* and *Physics: Electromagnetism* Units of the Course, the Units differing only by context, evidence for Outcome 1 and Assessment Standard 2.2 for one of these Units in this Course can be used as evidence of the achievement of Outcome 1 and Assessment Standard 2.2 in the other of these Units of this Course.

The achievement of Outcome 1 in the *Investigating Physics* Unit of this Course can be used as evidence of the achievement of Outcome 1 in the *Physics: Rotational Motion and Astrophysics*, *Physics: Quanta and Waves* and *Physics: Electromagnetism* Units of this Course. There is no requirement to match Assessment Standards. However, the achievement of Outcome 1 in the *Physics: Rotational Motion and Astrophysics*, *Physics: Quanta and Waves* and *Physics: Electromagnetism* Units of this Course cannot be used as evidence of the achievement of Outcome 1 in the *Investigating Physics* Unit of this Course.

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**

Support and guidance

SSERC have produced a number of exemplars for the Researching Physics Unit at Higher, which can then be used as the basis for the Higher Assignment. Although some of the exemplars were produced for the Revised Higher Physics course, they remain valid for the new Higher Physics Course. These exemplars can be accessed on the **SSERC website**.

Looking ahead to 2015/16

Understanding Standards

In June 2015, we will publish further Understanding Standards packs for National 3 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 Higher, and Understanding Standards packs.

A Nominee training event for Physics will take place in September.

A Nominee training event for the Advanced Higher *Investigating Physics* Unit and the Higher Physics *Researching Physics* Unit will take place in January 2016.

Understanding Standards events for Higher Physics will take place towards the end of 2015. 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, 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.

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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