

Childcare and Development



This update contains information on any recent updates to documents for your subject along with further information and guidance.

I hope you find this information helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

Elaine McFadyen
Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

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Qualifications Manager

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Subject Review Report

The development and implementation of the whole suite of National Qualifications has been a huge programme of work dating from 2010 and included many stakeholders. As part of the review and evaluation of this programme, SQA has been engaging with teachers and lecturers on an ongoing basis, as well as gathering intelligence from the awarding and verification process. As a result of this work, SQA has created subject reports to give teachers and lecturers an insight into our planned incremental changes and further areas of investigation for each subject. Each report identifies the key issues for that subject and an associated action plan. Find out more information and what this means for your subject [here](#).

Planned changes to documents in session 2016/17

We have put in place an agreed schedule of planned changes to documents for session 2016/17.

Publication date	Documents
End of April 2016	Course Specifications, Course Assessment Specifications and Unit Specifications
End of May 2016	Course and Unit Support Notes
End of August 2016	Unit assessment support packs
End of September 2016	Coursework assessment tasks, specimen question papers and exemplar question papers

This schedule takes into account any necessary changes that are identified as a result of verification activities, the exam diet and feedback received from centres throughout the current session. It is anticipated that additional, critical changes may be identified for some subjects following the grade boundary meetings which take place during the summer months. Where such changes are identified, we will make further updates and publish these documents by the following dates:

Publication date	Documents
End of August 2016	Course Specifications, Course Assessment Specifications and Unit Specifications (<i>further critical changes only</i>)
End of September 2016	Course and Unit Support Notes (<i>further critical changes only</i>)

For Childcare and Development there are no planned changes to the Course Specification, Course Assessment Specification, Unit Specifications and Course and Unit Support Notes in April and May 2016.

Further information and guidance

Approval to deliver Care and Childcare qualifications

Centres need to apply for approval to deliver Care and Childcare subjects as these are not auto-approved.

To be approved to deliver Care and Childcare subjects, staff should have occupational knowledge and/or experience. Ideally they should have Care experience or have been delivering Care qualifications and should be knowledgeable with regards to SSSC Codes of Practice, National Care Standards and relevant legislation. It would also be beneficial if staff have, or are working towards, assessor qualifications, or are GTC registered. Find out more information about the approval process [here](#).

Ushare

SQA has launched Ushare, a free-to-use online community that allows users to comment on, rate and share links to open-source learning and teaching materials. Ushare allows students, teachers, lecturers and other education professionals to share links to relevant resources, such as articles and videos, presentations and research that assist with the delivery and study of a number of SQA qualifications and awards.

An NQ Childcare and Development Ushare section has been created and is now available for use. Please visit the following link to access Ushare: <http://ushare.education/Ushare/Home>. Alternatively, you can access Ushare via the main [Childcare and Development subject page](#) on SQA's website.

Users can create a profile, share a link to a resource they think is useful, or rate or comment on links that other users have shared.

Corporate parenting

As a corporate parent SQA has a legal and moral duty to provide children who are looked after with the kind of support that any good parent would give their own children to ensure that all aspects of their development are nurtured.

SQA is delighted to be a National Corporate Parent and is committed to making things better by listening to care experienced young people. We have met with a number of young people to learn about their lives and ambitions and as an organisation we feel strongly that we can make a real difference. One of the ways we aim to improve the outcomes for this group is by being more alert to their needs and making sure the views of care experienced young people are included when designing qualifications for the Care and Childcare sector.

Understanding Standards programme

Our Understanding Standards programme will continue in session 2016/17 when we will publish more candidate evidence and commentary materials. We will also deliver a series of Understanding Standards events on Course assessment and continue to deliver subject-specific continuing professional development (CPD) webinars online, subject to request. In addition to this, throughout the session we will gather and publish assessment case studies to share good practice in assessment.

To access candidate evidence and commentaries for externally assessed Components of Course assessment, visit www.understandingstandards.org.uk

Candidate evidence and commentaries for Units and internally assessed Components of Course assessment are available from our secure website.

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

Verification Key Messages

Key messages from round 1 of verification in session 2015/16 are available from the relevant subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects. You can access them from the 'Verification and Course Reports' heading in the Assessment Support section.

Key messages from round 2 will be published over the summer.

Looking ahead to session 2016/17

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training

We are still offering free CPD training for teachers and lecturers, where particular areas of concern are identified which are not addressed by the Understanding Standards programme. This CPD support is subject-specific and is tailored to cover one or more qualification levels according to requirements.

Where there is sufficient demand, we may deliver CPD training through online webinars and, where appropriate, publish the recordings and related materials on our website after the webinar has taken place.

Stay informed

Subscribe to our newsletters

We currently issue two key newsletters for teachers and lecturers:

- Centre News (weekly)
 - New National Qualifications update (monthly)
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Both of these newsletters contain the latest news and updates for the National Qualifications. Centre News also includes subject-specific news and a regular reminder of key dates during the session.

To subscribe to our newsletters, visit <http://mailer.sqa.org.uk>

Visit your subject pages

Make sure you regularly visit your subject pages, where you can access documents and assessment support materials for your Courses, Verification Key Messages and information on Coursework. You will also find the latest news updates for your Courses in the 'Updates and announcements' section.

Visit www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects

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