

ESOL



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.

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Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

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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 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>)

Changes to documents in May 2016

Please ensure that you read the following updated documents in preparation for session 2016/17. To help you quickly and easily identify what has been updated, for every updated mandatory document we have also published a comparison document that clearly illustrates the changes.

These are published alongside the updated documents on our subject pages at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects

The Notification of Changes spreadsheets have also been updated to reflect the latest changes to documents. You can view these spreadsheets at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjectchanges

Changes to ESOL Course and Unit Support Notes		
Level	Change	Next steps for Centres
National 3	<p>Course Support Notes</p> <p>Examples of tasks/activities tables removed, replaced with wording and table containing advice on approaches to assessment.</p> <p>Wording on appropriate themes updated.</p> <p>Wording on assessing listening removed.</p> <p>Appendix 1: Contexts, topics and topic development removed and replaced by Appendix 1: Illustrative Language Tables (ILTs).</p> <p>Additional sources provided in Appendix 2: Reference Documents.</p> <p>Unit Support Notes for ESOL for Everyday Life and ESOL in Context</p> <p>Examples of themes/tasks/activities tables removed — replaced with wording on appropriate themes/tasks/activities.</p> <p>Appendix 1: Reference Documents now Appendix 2 and replaced with Appendix 1: Illustrative Language Tables (ILTs).</p> <p>Appendix 2: Coverage of the Four Skills removed and replaced with Appendix 2: Reference Documents, additional sources provided.</p> <p>Appendix 3: Contexts, topics and topic development removed.</p>	<p>Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.</p>

<p>National 4</p>	<p>Course Support Notes</p> <p>Removal of table and wording containing advice on naturally occurring evidence — replaced with table of relevant themes.</p> <p>Example of tasks/activities table amended.</p> <p>Advice on combining assessment updated.</p> <p>Appendix 1: Contexts, topics and topic development removed and replaced with Appendix 1: Illustrative Language Tables (ILTs).</p> <p>Additional sources provided in Appendix 2: Reference Documents.</p> <p>Unit Support Notes for ESOL for Everyday Life and ESOL in Context</p> <p>Removal of table and wording containing advice on naturally occurring evidence — replaced with table of relevant themes.</p> <p>Example of tasks/activities table amended.</p> <p>Advice on combining assessment updated.</p> <p>Appendix 1: Contexts, topics and topic development removed and replaced with Appendix 1: Illustrative Language Tables (ILTs).</p> <p>Additional sources provided in Appendix 2: Reference Documents.</p>	<p>Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.</p>
<p>National 5</p>	<p>Course Support Notes</p> <p>Removal of table and wording containing advice on naturally occurring evidence — replaced with table of relevant themes.</p> <p>Advice on combining assessment updated.</p> <p>Appendix 1: Contexts, topics and topic development removed and replaced with Appendix 1: Illustrative Language Tables (ILTs).</p> <p>Additional sources provided in Appendix 2: Reference Documents.</p> <p>Unit Support Notes for ESOL for Everyday Life and ESOL in Context</p> <p>Removal of table and wording containing advice on naturally occurring evidence — replaced with table of relevant themes.</p> <p>Advice on combining assessment updated.</p>	<p>Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.</p>

	<p>Appendix 1: Contexts, topics and topic development removed and replaced with Appendix 1: Illustrative Language Tables (ILTs).</p> <p>Additional sources provided in Appendix 2: Reference Documents.</p>	
Higher	<p>Course Support Notes</p> <p>‘Integrated approaches to assessing listening and speaking section amended and updated with more specific advice on examples of speaking and listening tasks/topics.</p> <p>Additional information provided on acceptable genres for writing assessment in ‘Preparation for Course Assessment Section’.</p> <p>Appendix 1: Contexts, topics and topic development removed and replaced with Appendix 1: Illustrative Language Tables (ILTs). ILTs demonstrate suitable topics and provide detailed advice on opportunities for skills development.</p> <p>Additional sources provided in Appendix 2: Reference Documents.</p> <p>Unit Support Notes for ESOL for Everyday Life and Unit Support Notes for ESOL in Work and Study Related Contexts</p> <p>Wording updated and additional advice provided on possible themes in ‘Approaches to learning, teaching and assessment’ section.</p> <p>Appendix 1: Contexts, topics and topic development removed.</p> <p>Appendix 2: Illustrative Language Tables now Appendix 1.</p> <p>Appendix 3: Reference Documents now Appendix 2. Additional sources provided.</p>	<p>Centres are advised to download new copies of the revised documents.</p>

These changes have been made to:

- improve clarity for candidates and centres
- provide additional advice to practitioners on possible topics, assessment tasks and reference documents

Further information and guidance

Learning and Teaching material for Access 2 to Higher has been re-purposed so that it aligns with the new National Qualifications. National 2–Higher learning and teaching material is available on the subject webpages in the ‘Support Materials’ section for each level.

A new ESOL Unit at SCQF level 2 has been developed titled *Preparation for Literacy*. It is designed as a precursor to the National 2 *Beginner Literacies* Units. The Unit specification is available [here](#). There are two Unit Assessment Support packs to support this Unit. The first has just been published on SQA’s secure website. Centres will be updated in Centre News when the second pack is available.

The ESOL Common Questions document has been updated. This document contains useful advice and guidance on both internal and external assessment and can be found on the ESOL [subject page](#).

An audio presentation providing a detailed overview of standards and assessment for both Unit and Course assessment will be available here in the near future:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/74495.html>

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.

During session 2015/16 we delivered a CPD webinar for National 3–Higher ESOL and you can access the associated materials from our secure site (password required)

www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards

Stay informed

Subscribe to our newsletters

We currently issue two key newsletters for teachers and lecturers:

- Centre News (weekly)
- New National Qualifications update (monthly)

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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Contact us

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