



# **Modern Studies: Understanding the next steps for session 2016–17**

Early in 2016, each subject area was reviewed and the results published in individual [Subject Review Reports](#) in May. Some actions applied immediately for candidates in session 2016–17, other actions were for later years.

This Guidance note explains the impact on assessment for candidates being presented in session 2016–17 and must be read in conjunction with the Subject Review Report as the principal guide to arrangements for this year.

(Previously published subject documents affected by the subject changes will be amended in due course. There may be a period of misalignment.)

# Session 2016–17

## Unit assessment

For session 2016–17 a threshold approach will apply to the judgement of Assessment Standards. If a candidate successfully meets the requirements of the specified number of Assessment Standards they will be judged to have passed the Unit overall and no further **re-assessment** will be required.

The specific requirements for the Units will be as follows:

### National 4

*Social Issues in the United Kingdom* — three out of the four Assessment Standards required

*Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom* — three out of the four Assessment Standards required

*International Issues* — three out of the four Assessment Standards required

*Added Value Unit* — six Assessment Standards required (no change)

### National 5

*Social Issues in the United Kingdom* — four out of the five Assessment Standards required

*Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom* — three out of the four Assessment Standards required

*International Issues* — three out of the four Assessment Standards required

### Higher

*Social Issues in the United Kingdom* — four out of the five Assessment Standards required

*Democracy in Scotland and the United Kingdom* — three out of the four Assessment Standards required

*International Issues* — three out of the four Assessment Standards required

### Advanced Higher

*Contemporary Issues*—seven Assessment Standards required (no change)

*Researching Contemporary Issues* — five Assessment Standards required (no change)

It should be noted that there will still be the requirement for candidates to be given the opportunity to meet all Assessment Standards. The above threshold has been put in place to reduce the volume of re-assessment, where that is required.

## **Course assessment**

- ◆ Advanced Higher — review and revise, where appropriate, the Coursework Assessment Task and Marking Instructions following first diet in 2016, for implementation in 2016–17.
- ◆ National 5 to Higher — review and revise, where appropriate, Coursework Assessment Task and Marking Instructions, for implementation in 2016–17.

Following the reviews any revised documentation, such as Coursework Assessment Task, General Assessment Information and/or Specimen Question Paper, will be published in September 2016.