

National 1 and National 2 (all subjects)

The Qualifications Team

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This update covers the full range of SQA qualifications available at SCQF levels 1 and 2, including Awards and units within Awards.

We hope that centres are still comfortable and confident in delivering our qualifications at these levels. It is encouraging to note that the evidence we have seen during verification activity over the last four years suggests that, each year, centres are growing more accustomed to using the units and unit assessment support packs. We are pleased to see that centres are providing appropriate and enriching learning opportunities at levels 1 and 2.

Working with you — National Qualifications Support Team

We are always happy to receive feedback on our qualifications and we would encourage you to get in touch with us to highlight any areas where you feel that further development may be needed. One of our key forums for reviewing and maintaining our qualifications, and receiving feedback, is the National Qualifications Support Team (NQST) for National 1 and 2. The NQST meets in autumn each year. Following a discussion at last year's meeting where we were asked to look at a way of allowing units to be completed again in a different context, we have now introduced the 'Alternative Context' units.

If you would be interested in joining the NQST for National 1 and National 2, please get in touch. More information on NQSTs can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/nqst

Alternative Context units

To increase the choice of units available to learners at SCQF levels 1 and 2, we have introduced new versions of existing units that are referred to as 'Alternative Context' units.

The Alternative Context units allow you to deliver the same units for a second time, but with a different theme or setting. The only difference between the Alternative Context units and the original units is their title and unit code. The outcomes and the assessment standards of the Alternative Context units remain exactly the same. Please note the following when delivering these units:

- Learners must have successfully completed the original unit before they can be entered for the alternative context version.
- There should be a gap of at least one year between the delivery of the original unit and the alternative context version.
- The unit assessment support packs for the original units should also be used for the alternative context versions and the assessment should be adjusted to reflect the alternative context.

The Alternative Context units do not contribute to the achievement of a National Course or award and the unit codes will not be accepted for this purpose. To see a list of these new units at SCQF levels 1 and 2, please refer to the [National 1 and 2 web page](#).

New National 1 and National 2 support materials published

We have published some new general support materials on our Understanding Standards website at www.understandingstandards.org.uk. This includes case studies, guidance on support during assessment, and exemplification of the standards required.

Some of these materials must be kept securely and treated as confidential, so we have stored it within a password protected area of the website. Details of the username and password for accessing this area are available from the National 1 section of the SQA Secure website.

Verification activity

We are changing the way in which we carry out external verification. For session 2017/18, there will be no nominees involved in the process. For SCQF levels 1 and 2, we will still select a sample of centres for central verification and a sample of centres for visiting verification. Instead of nominees, the verification will be carried out by a smaller group of external verifiers, including former nominees and team leaders.

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