



# National Qualifications Support Team

## Classical Languages and Classical Studies

Action grid from meeting held on 24 November 2014

Ref.	Agenda/minute title	Notes of discussion/action agreed	Action	Date
1	Welcome and introductions	Qualifications Manager for Classical Languages Marilyn Waters (MW) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the NQST.		
2	Roles and remit of NQST confidentiality	Qualifications Manager for Classical Studies Hilary Rutherford (HR) discussed the role of the NQST and encouraged members to use the forum as a way of raising issues or concerns.  It was discussed that it would be beneficial to have representatives from higher education on the NQST, to provide a different perspective on issues.  Qualifications Officer, Malcolm Wilson (MWi) to seek a representative from a Scottish university.	MWi	Dec 14
3	NQST Quickr place demonstration	Qualifications Officer Duncan Cox (DC) provided a demonstration of the NQST Quickr place — a dedicated secure online forum for this team.		
4	Verification activity 2013–14	MW and HR provided an overview of the Key Messages Reports.  Members discussed the approach to verification, which will mean fewer centres are verified at each level this year.		
5	Overview of Understanding Standards activity	HR gave an overview of the Understanding Standards activity which has taken place and is ongoing. <a href="#">Details can be found on SQA's website.</a>		

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		<p>The exemplification materials produced will be published on SQA's secure website in due course.</p> <p>It was raised that having events on different days for Classical Studies and Latin is problematic for teachers seeking release from centres, particularly when the dates are close together.</p>	MW/DC to investigate viability of overlapping events where possible	Dec 14
6	Subject Updates	<p>Members gave snapshots of how they are getting on with the new Courses and any issues they were aware of.</p> <p>The general picture regarding uptake was encouraging, with numbers for this session still not finalised. In centres where students choose six subjects at the end of third year, Classical Studies and Latin appear to be doing well.</p> <p>Where students have had a previous experience of Classical Languages or Classics, they are far more interested in taking them further — compared to students in centres where the first opportunity is in fourth year.</p> <p>The shortage of support materials has been making some teachers tentative about starting to teach the new Courses.</p> <p>In Latin, one of the Virgil passages contains some text that is tricky to render into English.</p> <p>Members expressed the opinion that there is a shortage of qualified teachers willing to practice in Scotland, which is exacerbated by the lack of a relevant teaching programme in Scotland.</p> <p>It was noted that 2015 will be the final year of the Classical Greek Course, although Unit provision will remain.</p>	<p>MW to investigate passage in question</p> <p>MW/MWi to look into refresh of Classical Greek Prescribed Text to keep demand of Units in line with new Latin Units</p>	<p>Dec 14</p> <p>For session 2015–16</p>
7	AOB	<p>The future of the NQST was discussed:</p> <p>Combined Classical Studies and Classical Languages meetings are preferred.</p> <p>Separate Quickr online forums for each subject area are</p>	<p>NQST members to be invited to another combined meeting next session</p> <p>SQA staff to</p>	Autumn 15

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		<p>preferred.</p> <p>The benefits of having practitioners who teach <b>either</b> Classical Studies <b>or</b> Classical Languages was stressed.</p>	<p>advertise NQST at Understanding Standards events</p>	<p>Jan/Feb 15</p>