



## Support for teachers of National 5 Computing Science

To support teachers delivering computing science, SQA is developing a comprehensive package of resources and providing continuing professional development (CPD).

### Resources

Course support notes will be included as an appendix to the revised National 5 course specification. In addition, SQA is currently working in partnership with Education Scotland to identify teaching resources that can be shared via Glow and accessed via SQA's computing science subject webpage. A table will link to the appropriate resources for each section of the skills, knowledge and understanding covered by the course. This will also include further guidance on specific aspects of the course specification, for example:

- ◆ SQL depth
- ◆ ERD/data dictionary depth
- ◆ Program design (use of pseudocode, flowchart symbols, and structure diagrams)
- ◆ HTML and CSS

We will shortly publish a copy of the table and further guidance to support teachers in advance of the course support notes being made available. This will be a dynamic document that will be updated with additional links to resources on an ongoing basis.

A specimen coursework task and a revised specimen question paper are being developed to help prepare candidates. We are currently piloting the revised coursework task with a number of selected centres. The specimens and course support notes will be published between the end of May and the end of September 2017, and we will advise centres when they are available.

### CPD

SQA is working in partnership with Education Scotland and with teachers to identify appropriate CPD opportunities for teachers delivering the National 5 Computing Science course. These will be shared via Glow and will include short video tutorials on different teaching methods. These resources can be used to support areas of course content where teachers might require further support, eg SQL.

We are also publishing a recording of the recent National 5 Computing Science course webinar, as well as a question and answer document. This will include answers to questions raised during the webinar and questions we have been receiving from teachers on the changes to assessment.

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In addition, we are planning a follow-up National 5 Computing Science course webinar, to be held in mid-June 2017, following the publication of the resource table.

In September 2017, we will be holding six face-to-face National 5 course events for Computing Science and these will take place at locations across the country. They will be part of a wider programme of events that focuses on the revisions to assessment at National 5. The events will provide the opportunity for delegates to engage with the revised specimen question paper and the revised specimen coursework task, and will include workshop sessions on areas of course content where teachers may require additional support. Further details will be provided once venues and dates have been confirmed.