

## Childcare and Development

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This update contains information relevant to your subject and details of the support available to you.

We also publish updates on the new National Courses in the 'Updates and Announcements' section of the relevant [subject pages](#). I would encourage you to make regular use of our subject pages, where you will find support documents, answers to common questions, and links to other areas of interest. You can also sign up for 'My Alerts', SQA's e-mail update service, that notifies you whenever content you are interested in is added or updated on our website. Visit [www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts](http://www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts) to register.

I hope you find the following update helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

**Elaine McFadyen**  
Qualifications Manager

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## The Qualifications Team

**Elaine McFadyen**  
Qualifications Manager

**Jennifer Morrison**  
Qualifications Officer

## Key messages from Diet 2014-15

### Course Reports

We strongly recommend that you read the annual Course Reports for the subject(s) and levels you are teaching. These reports are produced following the annual diet of exams and are published by the end of October. The reports provide informed and valuable comment on the assessment for each component in the Course, and include a summary of:

- candidate performance in the Course assessment
- areas in which candidates performed well
- areas which candidates found demanding

The reports also contain advice on preparing future candidates, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course Reports are available from the relevant [subject pages](#) of our website.

## Documents and assessment support materials

It is important that you read the full suite of documents for your Course, as well as those relating to assessment, and that you refer to the latest versions.

Information on documents and assessment support materials for National 1 to Advanced Higher can be found at [www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments](http://www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments)

### Higher documents

We have updated the Course Assessment Specification for Childcare and Development for use in session 2015-2016. This update was made in August 2015 and the following revision was made:

- Course Assessment Specification — project purpose was amended to clarify that the focus of the project should be on an individual child or young person. This change was made to ensure that candidates can meet the requirements of the project.

Please note that a further amendment will be made to the Course Assessment Specification to bring the skills, knowledge and understanding list on page 4 in line with the updated prompts for the project. Please be advised that 'Analyse the role and responsibilities of professionals and

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other people in contributing to the development of children and young people' should read 'explain the roles and responsibilities of professionals in contributing to the development of a chosen child or young person' and should be used accordingly.

## Higher Coursework information

The following changes have been made to Coursework documentation and revised versions of each document were published in September:

- Updated project briefs have been published for use in session 2015/16 and these are now available on SQA's secure site. These can be accessed via your SQA Coordinator.
- The language throughout the General Assessment Information document has been revised to ensure that the focus of research is based on a chosen child or young person. Additional information has been added regarding choosing a child or young person. Updates have been made to the Detailed Marking Instructions which includes amendments to several of the project Prompts, Marking Instructions and Additional Notes on Judging the Evidence. Clarification has also been added regarding the word limit for the project.
- The Project Assessment Task document has been updated to reflect all of the changes mentioned above. The appendix 1: Instructions for candidates has also been updated to reflect these changes with additional amendments to include information regarding plagiarism and clarification on the project word limit.

## Coming up in 2015–16

### Understanding Standards 2015–16

From the end of October 2015, we will publish further Understanding Standards packs for National 4 to Higher. These packs contain candidate evidence and commentaries for Unit assessment and internally assessed components of Course assessment.

From November 2015 to January 2016, we will hold subject-specific Understanding Standards events for teachers and lecturers. The main focus of these events will be on Course assessment at Higher. An Understanding Standards event for Childcare and Development will take place on the following date:

- 14 November 2015 (Stirling)

Materials from the Nominee training events will also be published on our website.

For more information, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards](http://www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards)

Details of the Understanding Standards materials for each subject are available from the [subject pages](#)

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## Review of Skills for Work Early Education and Childcare National 4 and 5

We are currently undergoing a scoping exercise to identify areas of the Skills for Work Early Education and Childcare Courses that need to be revised. A Qualifications Design Team will be established to take the revisions forward and further information will be made available in due course.

## Marker recruitment opportunities for 2016

We are now accepting Marker applications from teaching professionals to contribute to the 2016 examination diet. If you are interested in joining us as a Marker please visit the [appointee opportunities](#) where you will find a marker advert for all subjects and levels, with details of the role.

Our current Markers will confirm to you that the experience of marking helps increase their awareness of the demands of Course assessment and that marking is excellent professional and personal development.

Please check [www.sqa.org.uk/appointees](http://www.sqa.org.uk/appointees) regularly for other appointee opportunities which may be of interest to you.

### Contact us

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

**Tel:** 0303 333 0330

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