

Art and Design



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 to register.

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

Lesley Clark
Qualifications Manager

The Qualifications Team

Lesley Clark
Qualifications Manager

Adele Pattison
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.

Verification Key Messages

Key messages from round 2 of verification in session 2014–15 were published over the summer. They are available from the relevant [subject pages](#), where you can access them from the 'Verification and Course Reports' heading in the 'Assessment Support' section.

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.

National 3 to Higher documents

As we communicated in our May 2015 subject update, we updated some documents for National 5 and Higher Art and Design for use in session 2015–16. These updates were made in April and May 2015 and the following revisions were made:

- A minor change was made to the 'Structure and coverage of the Course assessment' section of the National 5 and Higher Course Assessment Specifications in order to clarify where marks can be awarded in the Expressive and Design folios.

You can find more details of these revisions in the [May 2015 subject update](#).

Higher Coursework information

We have made minor amendments to the general assessment information and portfolio assessment task documents for Higher Art and Design. Changes were made to the Marking Instructions and to the information for candidates section to provide further clarity and to ensure that the requirements of the Evaluation are clear.

Higher Specimen Question Papers, Exemplar Question Papers and past paper guidance

Questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 of the Higher Specimen Question Paper and the Higher Exemplar Question Paper have been revised and reformatted to make their requirements clearer for candidates.

The most significant change is the removal of the statement from part (a) of these questions. Instead of 'selecting art work(s) that are relevant to the statement', candidates are now asked to 'select one or more art work(s) that you have studied'.

The requirements of the questions are unchanged. In part (a) candidates still have to discuss the selected artwork(s) in terms of one or more of the prompts provided and then in part (b) to explain the influence of social and cultural and/or other factors on any of the artwork(s) discussed in part (a).

Future Question Papers will follow this format, which is exemplified in the republished Specimen and Exemplar Question Papers. These documents are available now on our [website](#). Centres are advised to download copies of these revised documents.

Advanced Higher documents

In April and May 2015, we updated the mandatory documents and Course/Unit Support Notes for Advanced Higher. The following revisions were made:

- Minor amendments were made to the Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design) and Art and Design (Expressive) Course Specifications.
- The Course Assessment Specifications for Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design) and Art and Design (Expressive) were amended and the mark allocation for the portfolio Component was changed from 200 marks to 100 marks for both Courses.
- The Unit Specifications for both Courses were amended and changes were made to the Outcomes, Assessment Standards and Evidence Requirements.

Further information on these revisions can be found in the [May 2015 subject update](#). You can also view the Notification of changes spreadsheets for National 3 to Higher, and Advanced Higher at www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges.

Coming up in 2015–16

Understanding Standards 2015–16

From the end of October 2015, we will publish further Understanding Standards packs for National 1 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. Understanding Standards events for Higher Art and Design will take place on the following dates:

- 15 January 2016 — Stirling
- 16 January 2016 — Stirling
- 25 January 2016 — Inverness

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

For more information, visit www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards.

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

National 4 Added Value Units

You now have the option of developing your own National 4 Added Value Unit assessments for use with candidates.

Please note that this is not a requirement and you can continue to use SQA-produced Added Value Unit assessments. Most SQA-produced Added Value Unit assessments already allow considerable flexibility in the choice of a context for the assessment, while some provide a context that you can change.

If you choose to develop your own Added Value Unit assessment, we strongly advise submitting it to us for prior verification before using it with candidates.

Further information can be found at www.sqa.org.uk/unitassessment.

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](#) section of our website 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.

Contact us

For centre enquiries, please contact our Customer Support Team:

Tel: 0303 333 0330

Fax: 0345 213 5000

E-mail: mycentre@sqa.org.uk

Follow us online

Twitter: [@sganews](#)

Facebook: [ScottishQualificationsAuthority](#)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel, [SQAonline](#).
