

## Care

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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.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/supportdocuments)

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## National 5 and Higher documents

We have updated the Course Specification and Course Assessment Specification for National 5 Care for use in session 2015-2016. These updates were made in August 2015 and the following revisions were made:

- National 5 Course Assessment Specification — wording has been amended to clarify the requirement for a single individual to be investigated. A statement has been added to reiterate that candidate log books are mandatory and should be submitted to SQA with the project.
- National 5 Course Specification — wording has been amended to clarify the requirement for a single individual to be investigated.

## National 5 and Higher Coursework information

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

### National 5:

- The project briefs have been updated for session 2015-16 and are now available on SQA's secure site which can be accessed via your SQA Coordinator.
- The General Assessment Information document has been revised in several sections to include information regarding the candidate log books and the introduction of a word limit. General marking principle (g) has been removed as the assessment item it previously referred to has been revised. Statements have been added to confirm that candidates should not base the project on themselves. There have also been amendments and revisions to the Specific Marking Instructions including the assessment items, assessment item instructions and the Additional notes on judging the evidence. The 'Overview of allocation of marks' table has also been removed.
- The Project Assessment Task document (including Appendix 1: Instructions for candidates) has been revised to take into account all changes mentioned above.

### Higher:

- The project briefs for session 2015–16 are available on SQA's secure site and can be accessed via your SQA Coordinator. There has been no change made to these for this session and so the briefs are the same as those issued for 2014-15.
  - Wording throughout the General Assessment Information document has been revised to take into account the option for the candidate to choose an individual or individuals to base their project on. Clarification has been added regarding the candidate's choice of individual, in addition to updated wording regarding safeguarding, ethical guidelines, plagiarism and the project word limit. The Detailed Marking Instructions have been amended in several sections of the Marking Instructions column and the Additional notes on judging the evidence.
  - The Project Assessment Task document (including Appendix 1: Instructions for candidates) has been revised to take into account all changes mentioned above.
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## Advice and guidance

### Minor update to National 4 Unit assessment support pack

H21C 74 *Care: Values and Principles*, (National 4), Package 1: Unit-by-Unit approach  
Please note that page 7 in the Making Assessment Judgements section currently refers to 'Voluntary, Statutory or Third Sectors'. However, it should read 'Private, Statutory or Third Sectors' and will be amended to reflect this.

### National 5 project word limit

Following feedback from centres and Appointees, and a review of candidate submissions over two years, a word limit of 3,000-4,000 words has been introduced for the National 5 externally marked Coursework project.

### Approval to deliver Care qualifications

Centres are reminded that they need to apply for approval to deliver Care Courses as these are not auto-approved.

To be approved to deliver Care Courses, staff should have occupational knowledge and/or experience. Ideally, they should have experience of working in the Care sector or experience of delivering Care qualifications, and should be knowledgeable with regards to SSSC Codes of Practice, National Care Standards and relevant legislation. It would also be beneficial if staff have, or are working towards, assessor qualifications, or are GTC registered. For more information on the approval process, please click [here](#).

## 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 Care Higher will take place on the following date:

- 20 January 2016 (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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## 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](http://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.

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:

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