

## Art and Design, Photography



Welcome to the first edition of our new-look subject update, which replaces the letter you would have received previously. This update complements our regular monthly and weekly communications, with more information relevant to your subject, and details of what we have been working on.

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. Documents that must be treated confidentially can be found on our secure site and you can arrange access to these through your SQA Co-ordinator.

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

**Lesley Clark**  
Qualifications Manager

---

## Updates to documents

### New Higher specifications

All documents containing mandatory information on Higher Art and Design and Higher Photography were reviewed and revised in April and May 2014, along with the Higher Unit assessment support packs.

A high level summary of these updates can be found in the Notification of changes spreadsheet for Expressive Arts at [www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges)

## Contacting the team

**Lesley Clark**  
**Qualifications Manager**

Tel: 0345 213 5616

[lesley.clark@sqa.org.uk](mailto:lesley.clark@sqa.org.uk)

**Lynn McKinlay**  
**Qualifications Officer**

Tel: 0345 213 5501

[lynn.mckinlay@sqa.org.uk](mailto:lynn.mckinlay@sqa.org.uk)

### New Higher Art and Design: Specimen Question Paper

We have reviewed the Specimen Question Paper for Higher Art and Design and made some changes to the following four questions:

- Section 1 – Questions 3 and 4
- Section 2 – Questions 3 and 4

These changes clarify what candidates will be expected to focus on within their answers. Rather than discuss the statement presented, candidates will be expected to select and discuss examples of art and design work that they have studied throughout the Course. The Marking Instructions have also been amended to include examples of how marks are allocated and how marks can be acquired by candidates. There are no changes to any of the image questions.

To coincide with this update, the Course Assessment Specification has also been revised and a comparative document published to clearly illustrate the changes made. Please note that no changes have been made to the Course content.

The latest versions of these documents are labelled August 2014 and we urge all practitioners to use these versions when preparing their candidates. The revised Specimen Question Paper and Course Assessment Specification can be found on the [Higher Art and Design subject page](#).

### National 5 Art and Design: portfolio Marking Instructions

The portfolio assessment task Marking Instructions were updated following this year's main diet. This is to assist centres by providing further clarity to ensure that the requirements of the Evaluation are clear. There was also a related amendment to the Candidate Assessment task. The assessment task and Marking Instructions will be updated by the end of September 2014 and the relevant associated documents will be updated accordingly.

---

---

## Support and guidance

### 2014 question paper Marking Instructions

Finalised Marking Instructions for the 2014 Art and Design question papers have now been published on the [National 5 Art and Design page](#).

### Reports on assessment performance

Guidance on performance in external Course assessments and evidence generated for internal assessment is published annually. This includes Course Reports, External Assessment Reports and Verification Key Messages, all of which will be available in the autumn via the relevant subject pages of SQA's website. Internal Assessment Reports will not be published for the new National Courses.

The following Verification Key Messages are now available:

- [National 3 to National 5 Art and Design](#)

Please take time to read the above report as it contains useful feedback on candidate performance in 2013–14.

### CPD Presentation

The PowerPoint presentation that was used at Art and Design training events this spring is available on the [Art and Design subject page](#).

## Looking ahead to 2014–15

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2013–14. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing to work with them during session 2014–15.

### Recruitment opportunities

We are currently in the process of recruiting for a number of vacancies that we are looking to fill between now and February 2015. Vacancies include new and replacement appointments for the following roles in relation to the new qualifications:

- Team Leaders (external assessment) – Higher Art and Design
- Markers (Question Paper and Portfolio) – National 5 and Higher Art and Design
- Markers – Higher Photography
- Senior Team Leader (Verification) – Higher Photography

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

---

---

## **Understanding Standards**

Throughout session 2014–15, we will be publishing a range of Understanding Standards materials for both Unit and Course assessment. These materials will include candidate evidence with commentaries and can be used by centres for training and bench-marking purposes. We will also run Understanding Standards events for Unit assessment, for Nominees to share knowledge of Unit assessment with their colleagues. In addition, we will run Understanding Standards events for Course assessment for National 5, which will be open to all subject specialists.

Further information will follow in SQA's weekly and monthly centre updates.

---