

Philosophy



Welcome to the first edition of the new-look subject update which replaces the letter centres you would have previously received. This complements the regular monthly and weekly SQA communications, with more information relevant to Philosophy.

Please share the contents with colleagues involved in the delivery of NQ Philosophy.

Contacting the team

Should you require further information, the customer services team will be happy to assist.

Customer Support Team

Tel: 0303 333 0330

mycentre@sqa.org.uk

Updates to documents

In the **special edition June 2014 update** on the new National Qualifications, it was explained that SQA would be making updates to documents containing mandatory information on National 3 to National 5 Courses, along with the associated Unit assessment support packs. Further details regarding revisions to documents are shown below.

National 5 — C754 75

The National 5 assignment assessment task has been amended; the assessment task itself remains unchanged. Changes have been made to the way in which marks are allocated within the Marking Instructions. Overall marks for the assessment task remain unchanged.

Practitioners are encouraged to make themselves familiar with the latest versions of the general assessment information document hosted on SQA's website and the assignment assessment task document hosted on SQA's secure website. Items held on SQA's secure site can be accessed via the centre's SQA Co-ordinator. A high-level summary of these updates can be found in the Notification of changes spreadsheet for National 5 Social Studies (Society), at **www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges**

New Higher — C754 76

Some documents containing mandatory information on the new Higher 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 Higher Social Studies (Society) via **www.sqa.org.uk/cfesubjectchanges**.

Example question paper

SQA published an example question paper for this Course in December 2014. This demonstrated how existing past paper questions or items have been amended and adapted for use as support for Course assessment preparation. This provides an additional support for centres, alongside the specimen question paper previously published and the guidance on the use of past papers document.

Support and guidance

Finalised Marking Instructions for the 2014 Philosophy question papers have been published on the relevant subject pages of SQA's website.

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 are available via the relevant subject pages of SQA's website. Internal Assessment Reports will not be published for the new National Courses.

Staff news

A Subject Implementation Manager for Philosophy (David Ralston) has been appointed to support the delivery of the new qualifications. If you would like to get in touch with him, in the first instance please contact the Customer Support Team.

Looking ahead to 2014–15

SQA would like to express gratitude and extend thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2013–14. The work that all the teams carry out is appreciated and SQA looks forward to continuing work with them during session 2014–15.

Please note that the final exams for the following subjects will take place during the 2015 diet:

- ◆ C268 12 Philosophy Higher
- ◆ C268 11 Philosophy Intermediate 2

Recruitment opportunities

SQA is currently in the process of recruiting for a number of vacancies looking to be filled by February 2015. Opportunities are still available for Higher and National 5:

- ◆ Item Writers
- ◆ Item Checkers
- ◆ Question Paper Reviewers
- ◆ Question Paper Validators

Application forms and information on each of these roles are available on the Appointee Management section of SQA's website: [CfE — Appointee Vacancies](#).

SQA Markers

SQA welcomes applications from teachers/lecturers to mark Philosophy question papers and assignments at all levels. If teachers/lecturers are interested in becoming a Marker in Philosophy, information and application forms are available on the Appointee Management section of SQA's website. To become a Marker, a minimum of two years' Philosophy teaching experience is required. In a number of subject areas there have been examples where the results in centres have improved dramatically after a member of staff joined the marking team. The experience of marking helps to increase the awareness of the demands of Course assessment and is proven to be excellent professional and personal development. For more information, please visit SQA's [Marker Information](#) web page.

Understanding Standards

Throughout session 2014–15, SQA 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. Understanding Standards events for Unit assessment will also be held, where Nominees will share knowledge of Unit assessment with their colleagues. In addition, Understanding Standards events for Course assessment for National 5 will take place, which will be open to all subject specialists. Further information will follow in SQA's weekly and monthly centre updates.
