



# English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

## **The Qualifications Team**

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## **Diet 2019**

### **Course reports**

Please read the annual course reports for National 5 and Higher ESOL. We produce these reports following the exam diet and they provide information on how candidates performed in course assessment for National Qualifications.

Course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing candidates for future assessment, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the subject pages of our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects).

# Information and guidance

## SQA ESOL qualifications benchmarked by UK NARIC

SQA's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications have been recognised as corresponding to the Common European Framework of Reference for languages (CEFR).

The CEFR is a standard framework of reference used across Europe, and in other continents, to identify the different levels of language qualifications. The framework spans six levels – from A1 (basic user) to C2 (proficient user).

Following an extensive review of our ESOL qualifications, [UK NARIC](#) – the UK's designated national agency for recognising and comparing international qualifications and skills – confirmed the CEFR level of each qualification:

| CEFR level       |    | SQA ESOL qualifications |        |                    | SCQF |
|------------------|----|-------------------------|--------|--------------------|------|
|                  |    | Level                   | Course | Freestanding units |      |
| Proficient user  | C1 | Higher                  | ✓      | ✓                  | 6    |
| Independent user | B2 | National 5              | ✓      | ✓                  | 5    |
| Independent user | B1 | National 4              | ✓      | ✓                  | 4    |
| Basic user       | A2 | National 3              | ✓      | ✓                  | 3    |
| Basic user       | A1 | National 2              | n/a    | ✓                  | 2    |

Further information is at [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/SQA\\_ESOL\\_CEFR\\_Levels.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_ESOL_CEFR_Levels.pdf)

## Units that were previously part of the National 5 and Higher courses

The units that were previously part of these courses are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 5 and 6. These units no longer contribute to the National 5 and Higher courses. The new codes for these units are:

- ◆ J25B 75 ESOL for Everyday Life (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ J25R 75 ESOL in Context (SCQF level 5)
- ◆ J25C 76 ESOL for Everyday Life (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ J215 76 ESOL in Study-related Contexts (SCQF level 6)
- ◆ J214 76 EOL in Work-related Contexts (SCQF level 6)

We have removed references to these courses from the freestanding unit specifications, which are available from the freestanding units web page for each subject.

There is a link to the freestanding units page from the 'see also' section on the [subject landing page](#).

## Events, webinars and CPD

There are a number of Understanding Standards continuing professional development (CPD) events and webinars in the coming months.

All materials presented at the events will be published on our Understanding Standards website after the events. There will be an update in Centre News when these materials are available.

The ESOL events will take place on:

- ◆ Thursday 14 November 2019 – Higher
- ◆ Tuesday 21 January 2020 – National 2, 3 and 4

The ESOL webinars will take place on:

- ◆ Tuesday 29 October 2019 – National 2
- ◆ Tuesday 12 November 2019 – National 3
- ◆ Tuesday 26 November 2019 – National 4

To view the event and webinar schedules and book your place, visit <http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqeevents>.

If areas of concern are identified and are not addressed in the Understanding Standards programme, we can provide CPD training, when requested. CPD support is subject-specific and can be tailored to cover one or more qualification levels. You can find more information on the [NQ CPD support requests page](#).

## Online resources to help you prepare for assessment

As part of our Understanding Standards programme, we provide a range of online resources to help you develop your understanding of the standards required for each level. These include:

- ◆ Presentations with audio — a subject-specific presentation with an audio narration, to talk you through the requirements of the National 5 and Higher course assessments. You can access these materials via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the National 5 and Higher subject page.
- ◆ Webinar recordings — recordings of recent online CPD webinar sessions. You can access these recordings via [www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards](http://www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards).
- ◆ Candidate evidence and commentaries — examples of candidate assessment evidence with a written commentary, to explain why the evidence has or has not met the required standards. Examples of candidate evidence and commentaries are available on SQA's secure site via your SQA co-ordinator.

You can find out more about the Understanding Standards programme at [www.understandingstandards.org.uk](http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk).

## Online learning support materials

ESOL online learning and revision materials are available for National 5 and Higher via the National 5 and Higher ESOL subject pages under the 'Support materials tab', and via [SQA Academy](#). Other levels will be available later in the year.

## National 2 ESOL units

There are four freestanding ESOL units at National 2:

- ◆ ESOL for Everyday Life: Reading and Writing
- ◆ ESOL for Everyday Life: Listening and Speaking
- ◆ ESOL in Context: Reading and Writing
- ◆ ESOL in Context: Listening and Speaking

There are three pre-entry units available at National 2 for candidates who need to develop their English literacy skills prior to undertaking the units above. Candidates can do all three units or the unit(s) most appropriate to their needs.

- ◆ ESOL: Preparation for Literacy
- ◆ ESOL: An Introduction to Beginner English Literacies 1
- ◆ ESOL: An Introduction to Beginner English Literacies 2

## Information on National 5 and Higher marks scaling

The following components of the National 5 and Higher ESOL courses include marks scaling:

- ◆ listening
- ◆ reading
- ◆ writing

The purpose of scaling at National 5 and Higher is to ensure that each skill has equal weighting. In order to assist centres, please find the scaling grids below for each of the scaled components.

| Listening |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Raw mark  | Scaled mark |
| 25        | 20          |
| 24        | 19          |
| 23        | 18          |
| 22        | 18          |
| 21        | 17          |
| 20        | 16          |
| 19        | 15          |
| 18        | 14          |
| 17        | 14          |
| 16        | 13          |
| 15        | 12          |
| 14        | 11          |
| 13        | 10          |
| 12        | 10          |
| 11        | 9           |
| 10        | 8           |
| 9         | 7           |
| 8         | 6           |
| 7         | 6           |
| 6         | 5           |
| 5         | 4           |
| 4         | 3           |
| 3         | 2           |
| 2         | 2           |
| 1         | 1           |

| Reading  |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Raw mark | Scaled mark |
| 35       | 25          |
| 34       | 24          |
| 33       | 24          |
| 32       | 23          |
| 31       | 22          |
| 30       | 21          |
| 29       | 21          |
| 28       | 20          |
| 27       | 19          |
| 26       | 19          |
| 25       | 18          |
| 24       | 17          |
| 23       | 16          |
| 22       | 16          |
| 21       | 15          |
| 20       | 14          |
| 19       | 14          |
| 18       | 13          |
| 17       | 12          |
| 16       | 11          |
| 15       | 11          |
| 14       | 10          |
| 13       | 9           |
| 12       | 9           |
| 11       | 8           |
| 10       | 7           |
| 9        | 6           |
| 8        | 6           |
| 7        | 5           |
| 6        | 4           |
| 5        | 4           |
| 4        | 3           |
| 3        | 2           |
| 2        | 1           |
| 1        | 1           |

| Writing  |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Raw mark | Scaled mark |
| 30       | 25          |
| 29       | 24          |
| 28       | 23          |
| 27       | 23          |
| 26       | 22          |
| 25       | 21          |
| 24       | 20          |
| 23       | 19          |
| 22       | 18          |
| 21       | 18          |
| 20       | 17          |
| 19       | 16          |
| 18       | 15          |
| 17       | 14          |
| 16       | 13          |
| 15       | 13          |
| 14       | 12          |
| 13       | 11          |
| 12       | 10          |
| 11       | 9           |
| 10       | 8           |
| 9        | 8           |
| 8        | 7           |
| 7        | 6           |
| 6        | 5           |
| 5        | 4           |
| 4        | 3           |
| 3        | 3           |
| 2        | 2           |
| 1        | 1           |

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