



QUALIFICATIONS SUPPORT TEAM for the HN SCIENCE Portfolio of Awards

Minutes of meeting held at 10:00 on Wednesday 25 January 2023 on MS teams

Present:

Ania Sosnowska (Ayrshire College), Hunia Arshad (Edinburgh College), Kevin Spears (Fife College), Colin McMorrin (Forth Valley College), Fiona Jackson (Forth Valley College), Conor Larkin (Glasgow Clyde College), Sandra Dickson (Glasgow Kelvin College), Doug Fraser - Chair (North East Scotland College), Sandra Spence (West College Scotland), Marko Prorocic (Senior External Verifier), Nicola Levitt (External Verifier), Susan Bunton (External Verifier), Jonathan Gillies (SQA), Laura Gibson (SQA)

Not Present:

Alan McDowall (Ayrshire College), Julia Wright (Dundee and Angus College), Pamela Duke (Dundee and Angus College), Christine Hutcheson (Edinburgh College), Marcelle McIlroy (Glasgow Kelvin College), Jane Manson (Inverness College), Sam Bright (Moray College), Derek Steven (New College Lanarkshire), Kenneth Boyd (North Highland College), Donna Cousins (Perth College), Joe Burman (Perth College), Mary McGibbon (West College Scotland), Margaret Stafford (West Lothian College), Donna Mathieson (West Lothian College), Maureen Wallace (SQA)

Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Maureen Wallace.

1. Subject guidance 2022-23 and 2023-24

QST members discussed the subject guidance for session 2022-23. All QST members agreed that the subject guidance was manageable and allowed room for flexibility where required.

QST members also discussed the re-assessment of closed-book assessments. It was confirmed that if a learner fails a closed-book assessment, the re-assessment must also be closed-book.

Jonathan highlighted the planned HNVQ engagement activity for session 2023-24 to produce an evidence base which will in turn support any decisions SQA take around delivery and assessment models for HNVQ provision for session 2023-24 onwards. The engagement activity will be managed by SQA's Policy, Analysis and Standards directorate and will involve the following:

- Surveys for practitioners and learners at delivering centres
- Internal and external focus groups to gather more in-depth feedback. The external focus groups will include practitioners and learners at delivering centres.
- Research of the alternative assessment approaches utilised by other Awarding Bodies
- Review of attainment figures for HNVQ over the last three years
- Review of external verification reports over the last two years

The project is expected to be completed mid-March 2023.

2. Microsoft Teams

QST members confirmed that they are happy with the new HN Science QST Microsoft Teams site. If any QST members has any ideas or suggestions that they would like added to the site, they should email Laura Gibson.

3. Use of Artificial Intelligence

Sandra Spence raised concerns with regard to the use of artificial intelligence for open-book/project-based assessments. Jonathan advised that he would contact SQA's Head of Digital Assessment Services to ascertain SQA's current position on the use of artificial intelligence.

4. AOB

Doug Fraser highlighted that the NAB for the Human Body (F1RH 11) unit states that full referencing of sources is required. However, the performance criteria in the unit specification is use a variety of sources during the investigation. Jonathan confirmed that only a list of sources was required.

Doug also asked if the assessment for Outcome 1 in the Ecology and Ecosystems (H93A 34) unit could be extended from one hour to 90 minutes. Jonathan advised that owner of the unit was Anne Boyd. Laura will contact Anne's team to request the extension to the duration of assessment.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the QST would take place in March 2023. An online poll will be distributed to QST members to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting.

ACTION GRID

Action	Date completed
<p>Jonathan to contact SQA's Head of Digital Assessment Services to ascertain SQA's current position on artificial intelligence.</p> <p>Head of Digital Assessment Services response below:</p> <p><i>In common with all educational bodies SQA has been aware of emerging AI tools and the threats and opportunities they present for some time. As recent developments indicate this is a fast moving and complex field in which it is, at times, difficult to separate fact from fiction. SQA has had long standing guidance for teachers and lecturers who mark assessments for our qualifications about the need to be alert to the possibility of plagiarism. We continue to review the need to update this guidance and approaches in response to new developments such as ChatGPT and to monitor developments with AI and in particular its use in support of qualifications and assessment.</i></p>	27/01/2023
<p>Laura to contact Anne Boyd to request an extension to the assessment of Outcome 1 in the Ecology and Ecosystems (H93A 34) unit</p>	
<p>Laura to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date for next meeting of the HN Science QST which will be at the end of March 2023</p>	