



QUALIFICATIONS SUPPORT TEAM for the HN SCIENCE Portfolio of Awards

Minutes of the 32nd Meeting held at 10:00 on Friday 14th June 2019 in SQA Offices, The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DQ

Present		Not present	
Doug Fraser (Chair)	North East Scotland College	Derek Steven	New College Lanarkshire
Leann Tait	North East Scotland College	Irene Motion	Fife College
Jane Manson	Inverness College	Mhairi Hay	Forth Valley College
Marko Prorocic	Ayrshire College	Rob Boyd	Perth College
Ruth Johnston	Perth College	Jane Nichols	Argyll College
Joan Purdie	Glasgow Clyde College	Joseph Jamieson	Glasgow Clyde College
Alan McDowall	Ayrshire College	Steven Donnelly	Glasgow Kelvin College
Sandra Dickson	Glasgow Kelvin College	Kenneth Boyd	North Highland College
Pamela Duke	Dundee and Angus College	Samantha Bright	Moray College
Ryan Quinn	Edinburgh College	Val Gilchrist	Edinburgh College
Fiona Jackson	Forth Valley College	Kevin Spears	Fife College
Colin McMorrin	Forth Valley College		
Mary McGibbon	West College Scotland		
Miriam Walsh	Dundee and Angus College		
Sandra Spence	West College Scotland		
Jonathan Gillies	SQA		
Jenna Brown	SQA		
Ben Carrick	SQA		

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies had been received from Irene Motion, Derek Steven and Mhairi Hay.

2. Minutes and Actions of last meeting held on 23rd November 2018

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The majority of the actions have now been closed off. However, the following actions are still ongoing:

Christina to update the following units/ASPs:

- Animal and Plant Cell Culture: An Introduction (H920 34)
- Animal Biology (H921 35)
- DNA and Genetics (H929 34)
- Cell Biology: Theory and Laboratory Skills (H927 34)

3. HN Science Issues Log

A log of all queries/concerns with regard to HN science units/ASPs was collated and sent to QST members in advance of the meeting, to allow QST members to discuss these units/ASPs with their colleagues prior to the meeting.

QST members discussed and agreed the following changes:

- Science and Technology in Society (F3T9 11)
 - Unit spec to be amended to address any inconsistencies
- Science Investigation Skills (F3TB 11)
 - Unit spec to be amended to address any inconsistencies
- Human Body Structure and Function (H92C 35)
 - ASP to be split in two
- DNA Molecular Techniques (H92A 35)
 - Unit spec to be amended to include Biotechnology: An Introduction (H926 34) in the recommended entry to the unit
- NC Applied Sciences at SCQF levels 5 and 6
 - The Introducing Microbiological Techniques (EA3M 11) unit to be added to the optional section of both frameworks

Action: Jonathan to update the following units/ASPs:

- Science and Technology in Society (F3T9 11)
- Science Investigation Skills (F3TB 11)
- Human Body Structure and Function (H92C 35)
- DNA Molecular Techniques (H92A 35)

Action: Jonathan to update the following group awards:

- NC Applied Sciences at SCQF levels 5 and 6

Main Group Inorganic Chemistry (H932 35)

Doug Fraser raised concerns with regard to the assessment of the Main Group Inorganic Chemistry unit. The unit currently assesses all of the content, and the duration of assessment is 2 hours. Doug proposed introducing sampling to the unit spec and reducing the duration of assessment to 90 minutes.

Action: QST members to provide feedback to Jonathan if they have any concerns with regard to introducing sampling/reducing the duration of assessment in the Main Group Inorganic Chemistry unit by Friday 20th September 2019.

Statistics for Science (HP9Y 45) and Statistics for Science 1 (H8XT 33)

Jonathan noted that there had been limited feedback received with regard to the Statistics for Science (HP9Y 45) and Statistics for Science 1 (H8XT 33) units/ASPs. Concerns had previously been raised with regard to the level of demand of the Statistics for Science (HP9Y 45) unit and the content of the ASP for the Statistics for Science 1 (H8XT 33) unit.

QST members were asked to liaise with their colleagues that deliver the Statistics for Science (HP9Y 45) and Statistics for Science 1 (H8XT 33) units to ascertain their thoughts on the level of demand and the content of the ASP.

Action: QST members to liaise with their colleagues that deliver the Statistics for Science (HP9Y 45) unit to ascertain their thoughts on the level of demand. Feedback to be provided to Jonathan by Friday 20th September 2019.

Action: QST members to liaise with their colleagues that deliver the Statistics for Science 1 (H8XT 33) unit to ascertain their thoughts on the content of the ASP. Feedback to be provided to Jonathan by Friday 20th September 2019.

4. HN Graded Units

QST members raised concerns with regard to the implementation of the new policy on reasonable assistance, remediation and re-assessment in HN graded units, with QST members reporting unfairness due to learners that required remediation achieving better grades than those learners that did not

require any remediation. Sandra also noted that there was a sharp increase in the grades being achieved by learners for the Applied Sciences: Graded Unit 1.

Jonathan asked QST members to contact him direct to outline their concerns, and he advised that he would share these concerns with SQA's Research, Policy, Standards and Statistics team. In addition, Jonathan agreed to liaise with colleagues in SQA's Research, Policy, Standards and Statistics team to ascertain if there were any plans to carry out a statistical analysis on the impact of the new policy.

Action: QST members to contact Jonathan to outline their concerns with regard to the implementation of the new policy on reasonable assistance, remediation and re-assessment in HN graded units.

Action: Jonathan to share concerns with regard to the implementation of the new policy on reasonable assistance, remediation and re-assessment in HN graded units with SQA's Research, Policy, Standards and Statistics team.

Action: Jonathan to liaise with SQA's Research, Policy, Standards and Statistics team to ascertain if there are any plans to carry out a statistical analysis.

5. Remediation

Jonathan advised QST members that remediation was not allowed in examination-based assessments. If a learner fails an examination-based assessment, they should be given a re-assessment opportunity via an alternative instrument of assessment.

It was noted that the Understanding Standards materials for the Laboratory Skills for Science Industries (H91V 34) Unit contains advice regarding the remediation of laboratory reports, and what would be considered a minor and major error.

6. Laboratory simulations

Jonathan informed QST members that SQA are keen to work with any centres that are currently using, or considering using, laboratory simulations to support learning and teaching.

Ryan advised that Edinburgh College were considering the use of laboratory simulations, although discussions were at an early stage.

Action: QST members to contact Jonathan if they would like to discuss the use of laboratory simulations to support learning and teaching.

7. HN Physics

Jonathan advised QST members that a review of the HN physics units/ASPs was currently taking place. QST members were encouraged to raise awareness of the review to colleagues that deliver HN physics units. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Jonathan.

Action: QST members to raise awareness of the review of the HN physics units/ASPs to colleagues that deliver HN physics units

Doug reminded QST members that additional physics and mathematics units were in the process of being developed. Two new physics units and three new mathematics units are currently being developed for inclusion in the optional section of the HND Applied Sciences framework, to support articulation to university level courses in the physical sciences.

8. Lower level provision

Jonathan asked QST members if there was sufficient provision available at SCQF level 4. The overall consensus from QST members was that there was sufficient freestanding units available at SCQF level 4, and that there wasn't a need for any new group awards at SCQF level 4.

9. National Progression Awards

Doug advised QST members that the scoping exercise had concluded and that it was agreed that modernisation of the NPAs was required. Doug outlined the proposed changes to each of the NPAs, explaining that the science units would be replaced with modern equivalents.

10. HN Next Generation

Jonathan updated QST members on the HN Next Generation project, advising that it was now likely that four curriculum areas, including science, would be involved in the initial prototyping stage. The HN Next Generation project is still expected to commence in 2019, with exact dates yet to be confirmed.

11. AOB

Jonathan to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date for next meeting of the HN Science QST.

Action: Jonathan to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date for the next meeting of the HN Science QST

ACTION GRID

Action	Date completed
Christina to update the following units/ASPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal and Plant Cell Culture: An Introduction (H920 34) • Animal Biology (H921 35) • DNA and Genetics (H929 34) • Cell Biology: Theory and Laboratory Skills (H927 34) 	
Jonathan to update the following units/ASPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and Technology in Society (F3T9 11) • Science Investigation Skills (F3TB 11) • Human Body Structure and Function (H92C 35) • DNA Molecular Techniques (H92A 35) 	19/8/2019
Jonathan to update the following group awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Applied Sciences at SCQF levels 5 and 6 	
QST members to provide feedback to Jonathan if they have any concerns with regard to introducing sampling/reducing the duration of assessment in the Main Group Inorganic Chemistry unit by Friday 20 th September 2019.	
QST members to liaise with their colleagues that deliver the Statistics for Science (HP9Y 45) unit to ascertain their thoughts on the level of demand. Feedback to be provided to Jonathan by Friday 20 th September 2019.	
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QST members to contact Jonathan to outline their concerns with regard to the implementation of the new policy on reasonable assistance, remediation and re-assessment in HN graded units.	
Jonathan to share concerns with regard to the implementation of the new policy on reasonable assistance, remediation and re-assessment in HN graded units with SQA's Research, Policy, Standards and Statistics team.	19/8/2019

Jonathan to liaise with SQA's Research, Policy, Standards and Statistics team to ascertain if there are any plans to carry out a statistical analysis.	19/8/2019
QST members to contact Jonathan if they would like to discuss the use of laboratory simulations to support learning and teaching.	
QST members to raise awareness of the review of the HN physics units/ASPs to colleagues that deliver HN physics units	
Jonathan to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date for the next meeting of the HN Science QST	