

National Qualifications Support Team

Modern Studies



Action grid from meeting held on 9 October 2014

Ref.	Agenda/minute title	Notes of discussion/action agreed	Action	Date
1	Welcome and introductions	Qualifications Manager Hilary Rutherford (HR) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the NQST.		
2	Roles and remit of NQST confidentiality	Members were informed of the remit of the group and that much of the discussion would take place online. Members were encouraged to make use of the NQST Quickr place — a dedicated secure online forum for this team. Clarification was sought as to what should be posted on the forum. It was explained the forum was a facility for discussion of issues which NQST members wished to raise and also for SQA to seek guidance from members on any issues arising.	All	Ongoing
3	NQST Quickr place demonstration	Qualifications Officer Duncan Cox (DC) demonstrated the NQST Quickr place.		
4	Verification activity 2013–14	Members were provided with an update on verification of internal assessment. One of the NQST members who is also a nominee, spoke about the positive experience she had gained as part of the Verification team.		
5	Overview of Understanding Standards activity	Members were provided with an update on the Understanding Standards programme. It was agreed that this project would provide centres with valuable resources to help teachers in their delivery of the new qualifications.		

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		Upcoming events were discussed and members were in agreement that these would be well attended. Details of events can be found on SQA's website.		
6	Role of Subject Implementation Manager	John Porter (JP) was introduced as the Modern Studies Subject Implementation Manager (SIM) and gave an overview of his role in supporting centres in their delivery of the new qualifications. JP provided members with a brief summary of the common queries which he has been asked when visiting centres and it was agreed that this kind of support was invaluable to teachers.		
8	National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher	Members were provided with the draft National 5 Course Report and HR/JP provided a rationale for the adjustment made to the duration of the exam from 2015 onwards. JP provided clarification on the use of the resource sheet and members shared their experiences of good practice from their candidates.		