



September 2019

To: All Schools and FE Colleges, SQA Co-ordinators
Cc: External Verifiers, SQA Regional Managers

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Dear Colleague

Scottish Studies

The contents of this update, which provide information and advice to centres in relation to the Scottish Studies Awards, should be passed to the members of staff responsible for these qualifications.

Re-coding of National unit specifications at SCQF level 5 and Higher

The majority of optional units in the Scottish Studies Awards at SCQF levels 5 and 6 have been re-coded and are no longer part of course hierarchies.

The unit specifications have been updated to include the new codes and are available from the freestanding unit pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/ngsubjects.

Updated reference files with the new codes have been issued to your software supplier and, where applicable, directly to your centre (non-SEEMiS centres).

The Award Specification documents, Award Support Notes and Approval and Entry guidance documents have been/are in the process of being updated.

Hierarchies

As the units are no longer part of course hierarchies, the hierarchical link for Scottish Studies has also been withdrawn. However, we have decided to include the higher level of the most popular optional units in the structures— for example, the Scottish Studies Award at SCQF level 4 includes the optional unit *English: Analysis and Evaluation with a Scottish Context* (H6MF 74) and the SCQF level 5 equivalent unit *English: Analysis and Evaluation with a Scottish Context* (J216 75).

Scottish Studies Understanding Standards Event

The Understanding Standards event for Scottish Studies/Scots Language was held on Wednesday 11 September. A copy of the agenda, presentations and workshop discussion points are available on SQA's Scottish Studies webpage. The event was well-attended and feedback has been very positive.

The candidate evidence considered at the event will be uploaded to SQA's Understanding Standards website. This material provides examples of candidate projects, together with the external verifier commentaries. You can access the secure site through your SQA Co-ordinator.

https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/Understanding-Standards-Materials/Scottish_Studies

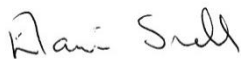
If you would like further information on these updates, please contact me or Kirsty Mitchell at kirsty.mitchell@sqa.org.uk.

Scottish Studies blog

Just a reminder that we have our own blog site and would encourage you to subscribe. You can find the blog at <http://blogs.sqa.org.uk/scottishstudies/>. There is a 'Subscribe to Blog' link on the right hand side of the page which allows you to be informed of new posts to the site.

If you would like further information on the points included in this update letter, please contact me or Kirsty.

Yours faithfully



Elaine Snell
Qualifications Manager