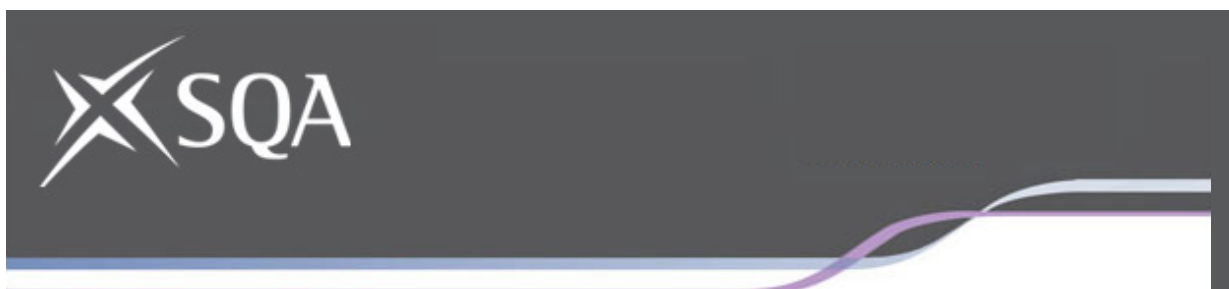


Education Committee, 5 February 2019



22 January 2019

The following communication has been sent to all Heads of Centre in schools and colleges, local authority Directors of Education, Heads of Education, Quality Improvement Officers and Education Officers, School Leaders Scotland and the Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS). A copy has been provided to all SQA Co-ordinators in schools and colleges, the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland, Scottish teaching unions and parent groups.

Message from Dr Gill Stewart, Director of Qualifications Development



Dear colleague,

Revisions to Advanced Higher course assessments 2019-20

In my e-mail of 5 October 2018 about changes to assessment in National Courses, I advised you that SQA would publish information in January about revisions to assessment for Advanced Higher from session 2019-20.

We will shortly begin publishing subject-specific information on our Advanced Higher web pages to advise if we are making any changes to the course assessment for each subject. For some subjects, this will be in the form of a summary document that details

the changes to the assessment and the reason for these changes (including details of extended exam times, where applicable).

This information will be available for all subjects at www.sqa.org.uk/ngsubjects by the end of January. We will highlight through our weekly newsletter (Centre News) and through our social media channels when each summary is available. We will also communicate this information to the relevant professional associations for each subject.

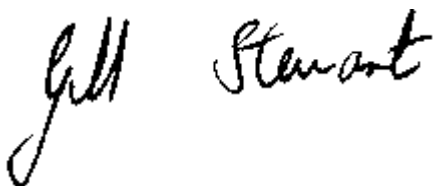
As you will be aware, these changes to assessment in National Courses follow from the [Deputy First Minister's announcement](#) in September 2016 about the removal of units and unit assessments from National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Removing units from Advanced Higher courses has a different impact from National 5 and Higher. At Advanced Higher level, the main purpose of the units is to help candidates prepare for the course assessment. For most subjects, the Advanced Higher course assessment already samples an appropriate amount of knowledge and skills from across the course. As such, there is less of a requirement to extend the course assessments to sample more content, and the level of change therefore varies across subjects.

Once we have published details of the changes to each Advanced Higher course, we will publish a set of tables that gives a high-level overview of the changes across all subjects. I will write to you again at the end of January to confirm that these tables are available, and to provide information on where you can find them on our website.

By the end of April, we will publish a revised course specification for each Advanced Higher course that combines the existing course specification, course assessment specification and coursework general assessment information (where applicable). This will follow the same format as the National 5 and Higher course specifications, and we will remove all units. We will add course support notes to these documents as an appendix, by the end of September 2019, to provide further guidance and clarity.

As we continue to work through the changes to assessment in National Courses, we are grateful to schools and colleges across Scotland for the ongoing partnership we have with them. Our common goal is to reduce workload for teachers and candidates while maintaining the integrity and credibility of the National Qualifications.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gill Stewart'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Gill Stewart

Director of Qualifications Development

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