

# Route map through assessment

## Course: ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Level: National 5

This document is intended to assist staff in planning and delivering the overall vision for Curriculum for Excellence.

The vision for the new national qualifications is to create assessment opportunities that follow and support learning and teaching. This follows the principles laid out in *Building the Curriculum 5* and makes assessment a natural part of learning and teaching.

This route map aims to signpost all of the relevant material that is available to support your subject. Your professional judgement is vital and the documents listed below are intended to support you in deciding the most appropriate ways to generate evidence and assess learners.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper for ESOL, and this is a good starting point as it provides support to help develop learning and teaching approaches that take forward the purposes and principles of Curriculum for Excellence through ESOL National 5.

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/e/nqresource\\_tcm4744376.asp?strReferringChannel=nationalq\\_ualifications&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-719131-64&class=l4+d150512](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/e/nqresource_tcm4744376.asp?strReferringChannel=nationalq_ualifications&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-719131-64&class=l4+d150512)

### ESOL National 5 course content

The main SQA ESOL page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45678.html>, with pages specifically related to National 5 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47411.html>. Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

The course specification can be found at [http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseSpec\\_N5\\_Languages\\_ESOL.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_Languages_ESOL.pdf).

There are two mandatory units: ESOL for Everyday Life and ESOL in Context.

**ESOL for Everyday Life:** Focuses on developing language skills for everyday life in familiar personal, social and transactional contexts. The four language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are developed using detailed English.

**ESOL in Context:** Focuses on developing language skills in the context of either work or study and is personalised within these contexts. The four language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are developed using detailed English.



## Course assessment

Course assessment is graded A–D. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the course award. The course assessment at National 5 will focus on challenge and application.

The learner will draw on, extend and apply the skills and knowledge they have developed during the course.

The course assessment will consist of:

- a performance that demonstrates the learner's listening and speaking skills in English
- two question papers in which learners will demonstrate their listening, reading and writing skills in English.

More information on course assessment can be found at

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseAssessSpec\\_N5\\_Languages\\_ESOL.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_Languages_ESOL.pdf).

## Verification

The verification process is designed to be supportive and not onerous.

Internal verification is the process of ensuring standards are applied uniformly and consistently within a centre in line with national standards. External verification is the process of ensuring that national standards are maintained consistently across all centres.

Quality assurance: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/58448.html>.

### *Prior verification*

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Prior%20Verification%20Centre%20Guidance%20FINAL.pdf)

Staff who devise their own assessments can send them to SQA for prior verification, free of charge. This is only necessary where significant changes have been made to the unit assessment provided. It gives departments confidence that their proposed assessment is fit for purpose and meets national standards.

### *Internal verification*

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/InternalVerificationGuideforSQAcentres.pdf)

As a matter of course staff should be quality assuring their assessments by carrying out activities that they have always done for NABs, for example double marking and blind marking. A sample of learners' work should be marked by more than one staff member in a department, and in single-person departments an arrangement should be made with another local authority school or local ESOL provider.

### *External verification*

In ESOL centres will submit a sample of learners' evidence for scrutiny by subject-specialist qualification verifiers. SQA intend that every centre will be verified over the first few years. Verification will take place in November, February and May. Twelve samples will be asked for.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/Evidence\\_required\\_for\\_verificationevents.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Evidence_required_for_verificationevents.pdf)

Centres must retain the evidence until 31 July of each academic year.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/SQA\\_Evidence\\_retention\\_requirements\\_A3\\_table.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SQA_Evidence_retention_requirements_A3_table.pdf)

Key messages from verification will be put up on the SQA website.

### **Recognising positive achievement**

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/Recognising\\_Positive\\_Achievement\\_N4N5.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/Recognising_Positive_Achievement_N4N5.pdf)

This is only applicable to National 5, **not** Higher. A learner who achieves 'No Award' in a National 5 course assessment will be able to gain a National 4 course award as long as he/she has passed all the internally assessed units of the National 5 course **and** has passed the National 4 Added Value Unit.

### **Results services**

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/FA6669\\_SQA\\_Results\\_Services\\_A5\\_8pp\\_brochure\\_web.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/FA6669_SQA_Results_Services_A5_8pp_brochure_web.pdf)

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/65427.html>

There are no longer any appeals. SQA offers two services: (1) Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service (within ten days of sitting external assessment) and (2) Post Results Service. The latter consists of either a clerical check or a marking review. It is likely that these will be carried out in conjunction with the school SQA co-ordinator.

## Education Scotland support materials

Advice and support for new national qualifications:

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/e/nqresource\\_tcm4749181.asp?strReferringChannel=nationalqualifications&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-719131-64&class=l4+d150512](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/e/nqresource_tcm4749181.asp?strReferringChannel=nationalqualifications&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-719131-64&class=l4+d150512)

## Other useful websites

A quick guide to finding vital information about Curriculum for Excellence:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/keycfesupport/index.asp>

This appears under three headings:

- the latest guidance, updates and plans for embedding Curriculum for Excellence
- information on assessment
- information on the new qualifications.

The BBC has pulled together all its learning content in a new Knowledge and Learning Beta site that includes Class Clips:

[www.bbc.co.uk/education](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education)

The ESOL Scotland website has learning materials that may suit topics that are covered:

<http://www.esolscotland.com/>

SQA also has ESOL learning and support materials that can be used and adapted where appropriate:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/41715.html>

The British Council's ESOL Nexus Project has a wide selection of learning materials that may suit topics that are covered:

<http://esol.britishcouncil.org/home>