

Route map through assessment

Course: Physical Education

Level: National 4

This document is intended to assist teachers 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 candidates.

Education Scotland has produced a professional focus paper 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 National 4 Physical Education. [Physical Education National 4 – Professional Focus Paper](#)

Physical Education National 4 course content

The main SQA physical education pages are found [here](#), with those specifically related to National 4 located [here](#). Staff should also regularly check the updates and announcements section of this page.

An overview of the course and its units can be found in the [course specification](#).

There are three units:

- Physical Education: Performance Skills
- Physical Education: Factors Impacting on Performance
- Added Value Unit Physical Education: Performance

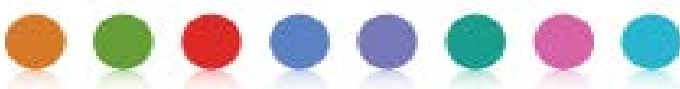
More detail on course coverage can be found in the [course and unit support notes](#).

A course comparison from National 3 to National 5 is available [here](#).

A table defining the four factors for physical education courses can be found [here](#).

Unit assessment

Units are mandatory when taken as part of the Physical Education National 4 course but they can be taken as stand-alone units outwith the course structure.



Each individual unit also has a National 4 unit specification.

Each unit specification gives details of the outcomes and assessment standards.

- [Physical Education: Performance Skills](#)
- [Physical Education: Factors Impacting on Performance](#)

An overview of the verification process is available [here](#).

It is important to consider the following:

- Learners must meet all the outcomes and assessment standards.
- Staff should read the documentation carefully.
- Evidence should be generated through learning and teaching.
- Learners should have access to resources to complete the assessment task.
- Staff should use their professional judgment when looking at the assessment evidence and ensure that minimum competency is met.
- Staff should undertake quality assurance regularly.

Three different ways of gathering evidence have been suggested by SQA:

- unit-by-unit – more traditional approach
- combined approach – links knowledge and understanding from two units together
- portfolio – allows learners to take full responsibility for their learning and bring various areas of the course together.

Evidence is gathered on an ongoing basis and is supported by the use of a range of learning and teaching approaches. Unit assessment support is kept on the SQA Secure website.

[Added Value Unit: Performance](#)

The Added Value Unit will focus on challenge and application. There is one outcome broken down into five assessment standards. The Added Value Unit: Performance will be negotiated with learners and then marked and verified by schools. Learners will have an option of which activity they wish to perform in and it can be something that they have not studied in class. There are no restrictions on access to resources. The assessment should take place when the learners are ready, to avoid reassessment. Further information on conducting the Added Value Unit assignment is available on the SQA Secure website. This includes a judging the evidence table. Instructions for learners are also appended and these should be issued to learners. During the first **two** years of implementation (2013/2014 and 2014/2015) all schools **must** use the SQA-published Added Value Unit assessments.

[Verification](#)

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

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

Prior verification

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

As a matter of course staff should be quality assuring their assessments by carrying out standardisation exercises, for example agreement trials, dual assessment, cross-assessment, 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.

External verification

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

Schools must [retain the evidence](#) until 31 July of each academic year.

Physical education specific information can be found [here](#).

Key messages from the first verification can be found [here](#).

Education Scotland support materials

Advice and support for new national qualifications ([Glow password required](#)).

Once logged in find select the national qualifications icon. Select 'Physical Education' from the search-by-subject column.

- For advice and guidance documentation go to **course materials**.
- For professional focus papers go to **learning and teaching advice**.