

# Route map through assessment

**Course: RMPS**

**Level: National 5**

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 for RMPS, 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 RMPS National 5.

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/r/nqresource\\_tcm4744686.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/r/nqresource_tcm4744686.asp)

## RMPS National 5 course content

The main SQA RMPS page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45631.html>, with pages specifically related to National 5 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47421.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\\_RMPS\\_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N5_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf).

There are three units: World Religion, Morality and Belief and Religious and Philosophical Questions.

Outcomes for each unit can be found in the unit specification for each unit: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47421.html>.

If the units are undertaken as part of the RMPS National 5 course then learners must cover the mandatory content in order to be prepared for the question paper element of the course assessment. Details of the mandatory content can be found in the "Further mandatory information on course coverage" section of the course assessment specification.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseAssessSpec\\_N5\\_RMPS\\_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf)

More detail on course coverage can be found in the course support notes.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseUnitSupportNotes\\_N5\\_RMPS\\_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf)



A course comparison from National 3 to National 5 is also available.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files\\_ccc/RMPS\\_Course\\_comparison.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/RMPS_Course_comparison.pdf)

## Course assessment

At National 5 added value will be assessed in a course assessment, which consists of a question paper and an assignment. The course will be graded A–D.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseAssessSpec\\_N5\\_RMPS\\_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseAssessSpec_N5_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf)

### Question paper

There will be a question paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes for RMPS National 5 worth 60 marks, which will be carried out under exam conditions and marked by SQA. It will test skills, knowledge and understanding. There will be three sections: World Religion (20 marks), Morality and Belief (20 marks), and Religious and Philosophical Questions (20 marks). In each section, learners will answer on the option they have studied.

Specimen question paper and marking scheme: [http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/RMPSSQPN5.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/RMPSSQPN5.pdf).

### Assignment

The assignment is a new component of the course assessment in which learners will demonstrate challenge and application. Learners will have a free choice of topic or issue. Research will be undertaken in the classroom and at home. The production of evidence stage will be completed under a high level of supervision. Learners will be able to take a resource sheet into the assessment containing notes on evidence and references which they intend to use in the assessment. This is allowed to be one side of A4 on the appropriate SQA stationery. Learners will complete the production of evidence phase in 1 hour and will use the appropriate SQA stationery.

The SQA stationery can be found here: (*Note: These links go to SQA Secure website pages and will need to be accessed by your centre's SQA co-ordinator.*)

Resource Sheet:

[https://secure.sqa.org.uk/files/cfe/Religious\\_Moral\\_and\\_Philosophical\\_Studies/National\\_5/National5RMPSAssignmentResourceSheetForPrinting.pdf](https://secure.sqa.org.uk/files/cfe/Religious_Moral_and_Philosophical_Studies/National_5/National5RMPSAssignmentResourceSheetForPrinting.pdf)

Assignment Report:

[https://secure.sqa.org.uk/files/cfe/Religious\\_Moral\\_and\\_Philosophical\\_Studies/National\\_5/National5RMPSAssignmentReportForPrinting.pdf](https://secure.sqa.org.uk/files/cfe/Religious_Moral_and_Philosophical_Studies/National_5/National5RMPSAssignmentReportForPrinting.pdf)

The assignment will be marked externally by SQA and is worth 20 marks, i.e. 25% of the course assessment.

Further guidance on assessment conditions can be found at

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/GAInfoNational5RMPS.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GAInfoNational5RMPS.pdf), with information on submission dates at [https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/CourseworkInformation/Coursework\\_Information](https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/CourseworkInformation/Coursework_Information).

Staff will need to be familiar with the guidance contained on the SQA Secure website.

[https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Religious\\_Moral\\_and\\_Philosophical\\_Studies](https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Religious_Moral_and_Philosophical_Studies)

## Unit assessment

When undertaken as part of the RMPS National 5 course the units and the specified unit content are mandatory. Units can also be undertaken independently, in which case the outcomes and assessment standards as described in the unit specifications must be met.

World Religion

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_Unit\\_N5\\_RMPS\\_WorldReligion.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_RMPS_WorldReligion.pdf)

Morality and Belief

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_Unit\\_N5\\_RMPS\\_MoralityandBelief.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_RMPS_MoralityandBelief.pdf)

Religious and Philosophical Questions

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_Unit\\_N5\\_RMPS\\_ReligiousandPhilosophicalQuestions.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N5_RMPS_ReligiousandPhilosophicalQuestions.pdf)

Further guidance on each unit can also be found in the unit support notes within the course support notes.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseUnitSupportNotes\\_N5\\_RMPS\\_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N5_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf)

Evidence that learners have met the outcomes and assessment standards may be generated through a wide variety of learning activities. Assessment evidence can be drawn from a variety of activities and presented in a variety of formats. The evidence may be compiled from a number of activities carried out throughout the course. Learners should have access to resources to complete the assessment task and no time restrictions should be imposed. Evidence should be assessed using the judging the evidence criteria in the unit assessment support packs.

[https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Religious\\_Moral\\_and\\_Philosophical\\_Studies](https://secure.sqa.org.uk/secure/CFE/Religious_Moral_and_Philosophical_Studies)

(*Note:* This link goes to an SQA Secure website page and will need to be accessed by your centre's SQA co-ordinator.)

The unit assessment support packs outline three different possible ways of gathering assessment evidence: unit by unit, combined and portfolio.

## 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.

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 assessments and assessment evidence. 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 RMPS schools will submit a sample of 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.

[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)

Schools 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.



## Education Scotland support materials

Advice and Support for new national qualifications (Glow password required):

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/nqcoursematerials/subjects/rmps/index.asp>

## 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 Bitesize websites have also been updated for National 5:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z2dmyrd>