

Route map through assessment

Course: ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Level: National 4

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 4.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/e/nqresource_tcm4744375.asp?strReferringChannel=nationalq_ualifications&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-719131-64&class=l4+d150512

ESOL National 4 course content

The main SQA ESOL page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45678.html>, with pages specifically related to National 4 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47404.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_N4_Languages_ESOL.pdf.

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

Previous skills, knowledge and understanding will continue to be integrated but the unit titles have changed to encompass a broader topic base. A list of suggested topics can be found in the SQA course support notes. http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N4_Languages_ESOL.pdf

To gain an award at National 4 learners must complete both units as well as the Added Value Unit.



Added Value Unit

The Added Value Unit consists of an assignment that introduces challenge and application. It is an opportunity for the learner to carry out some independent study. Having decided on a topic, learners then choose two texts – one of which must be written – and give an oral presentation in English about the topic. They then answer questions, asked orally, which are related to the topic. The chosen topic is a decision made between the learner and staff.

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 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

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

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 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

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

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



Education Scotland support materials

Advice and support for new national qualifications:

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/e/nqresource_tcm4749181.asp?strReferringChannel=nationalq ualifications&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

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>