

# Route map through assessment

**Course: RMPS**

**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 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 4.

[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/r/nqresource\\_tcm4744685.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/nq/r/nqresource_tcm4744685.asp)

## RMPS National 4 course content

The main SQA RMPS page is found at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45631.html>, with pages specifically related to National 4 at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47420.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\\_RMPS\\_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseSpec_N4_RMPS_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf).

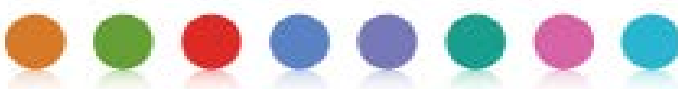
There are four units: World Religion, Morality and Belief, Religious and Philosophical Questions, and the Added Value Unit.

Outcomes for each unit can be found in the unit specification for each unit: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47420.html>.

If the units are undertaken as part of the RMPS National 4 course then candidates have to do all four units. At National 4 there is no specified or mandatory unit content. In order to achieve each unit learners must demonstrate that they can meet the outcomes and assessment standards of each unit.

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)



## Unit assessment

Units can be undertaken as part of the National 4 course or they can be undertaken independently. In either 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\\_N4\\_RMPS\\_WorldReligion.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_RMPS_WorldReligion.pdf)

Morality and Belief

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_Unit\\_N4\\_RMPS\\_MoralityandBelief.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_RMPS_MoralityandBelief.pdf)

Religious and Philosophical Questions

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_Unit\\_N4\\_RMPS\\_ReligiousandPhilosophicalQuestions.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_RMPS_ReligiousandPhilosophicalQuestions.pdf)

Added Value Unit

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_Unit\\_N4\\_RMPS\\_AddedValueUnit.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_Unit_N4_RMPS_AddedValueUnit.pdf)

Further guidance on each unit and on learning and teaching can be found in the course support notes.

[http://www.sqa.org.uk/files\\_ccc/CfE\\_CourseUnitSupportNotes\\_N4\\_RMPS\\_ReligiousMoralPhilosophicalStudies.pdf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/CfE_CourseUnitSupportNotes_N4_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.

## Added Value Unit

This is a new component of the course in which learners will demonstrate challenge and application. Learners will have a free choice of topic or issue. They will research their chosen issue or topic and communicate their findings. This will be done in two stages: a researching stage, which will include choosing a question, collecting evidence, organising and preparing for the presentation of findings, and then presentation of findings. The assignment will be conducted under some supervision and control. While most work will be undertaken under supervision, opportunities may also be provided for learners to undertake independent learning.

Further guidance and the criteria for judging the evidence can be found in the unit assessment support pack.

[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.)

## 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.

## 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 4:

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