Transcript Pre-recording of Business Units Graded Units 1 and 2

0:19:41.430 --> 0:19:49.960
Iain Walker
Hello, my name is Iain Walker and I'm the senior external verifier for business graded units.

0:19:54.230 --> 0:20:3.450
Iain Walker
And the aims of this presentation are to identify which awards the units that we are about to talk about sit in.

0:20:4.590 --> 0:20:10.260
Iain Walker
To identify the specific graded units that are being revised and changed.

0:20:11.50 --> 0:20:16.10
Iain Walker
And to have a brief look at the rationale for the revisions and changes that are being made.

0:20:16.850 --> 0:20:23.970
Iain Walker
And finally, to outline some of the revisions that are being made within the graded units one and two.

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Iain Walker

OK, which awards? Well, the awards are SQA Advanced diplomas in business; business with accounting;

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Iain Walker
With human resource management;

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Iain Walker
Information technology;

0:20:41.380 --> 0:20:54.730
Iain Walker
Marketing; global trade and business and in some parts of the world you may be able to deliver advanced certificates and again there will be changes within advanced certificates as well as advanced diplomas.

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Iain Walker
OK, so which graded units are being revised? Well, they are all called graded unit 1 in each of the awards. They'll have new codes in each award and these units will replace the existing units. So in business, it will be business graded Unit 1; in business with marketing, it will be business with marketing, graded Unit 1; and so forth. So, each unit has its own name in each award and its own code. And similarly

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Iain Walker
we're also making changes to each of the graded Unit 2 that sit in each of the awards that I've just mentioned, and they again will have new codes and replace the existing units.

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Iain Walker
OK, so what's the rationale for the changes?

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Iain Walker
Well, the present awards were last revalidated over 10 years ago.

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Iain Walker
That's quite some time.

0:21:55.110 --> 0:22:12.10
Iain Walker
At the time that we made those changes 10 years ago, there were a number of constraints in assessment rules and this time round in changing the awards, we've looked at those assessment rules tried to be just a little bit more creative than we were able to last time round.

0:22:12.940 --> 0:22:19.550
Iain Walker
Some of the other SQA awards have also been reviewed and updated already, so it was time for the Business Awards.

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Iain Walker
In the last 10 to 12 years, there have been significant changes in the business environment and even in the last two years, change seems to have gathered pace.

0:22:30.510 --> 0:22:39.970
Iain Walker
Graded unit 1, case studies are now starting to look a bit dated in the old awards and so there was a need to update those.

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Iain Walker
And there's a need to reflect changes to units.

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Iain Walker
Generally, within the new awards to reflect the unit changes that have also been made.

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Iain Walker
And there was also a desire to increase choice in the examination, in other words, in graded unit 1.

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Iain Walker
And need to better define the project format in the graded Unit 2.

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Iain Walker
OK. So we'll start with looking at graded unit 1. And as I said there are different needs for each of the awards and codes even though units are fundamentally the same in each of the awards.

0:23:22.510 --> 0:23:29.760
Iain Walker
So what's remaining the same? Well, your unit is still a 1 SQA-unit credit.

0:23:30.690 --> 0:23:31.800
Iain Walker
Uh, it's still.

0:23:33.120 --> 0:23:34.950
Iain Walker
SCQF level 7.

0:23:36.610 --> 0:23:46.580
Iain Walker
The units are still based on contributing units. What is new is it's 5 for new Business Awards 6 for global trade and business. I'll come back to that in a minute on the next slide.

0:23:47.420 --> 0:23:51.980
Iain Walker
Uh, the units are still case study based with appendices.

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Iain Walker
The examination is still a 3-hour examination and we retain the grades ABC as previously and there's a pass mark at 50% or more.

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Iain Walker
In each of the assessment support packs there are two papers and marking guidance is provided, and as previously in the old units that are going out that there is no remediation permitted in the graded unit 1 examination.

0:24:26.180 --> 0:24:34.950
Iain Walker
OK, so what's new? Well, there's new updated case studies and there are three ASPs planned.

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Iain Walker
Uh, so the case studies are updated. One of the case studies is based on a real company, two of the other case studies are fictionalized.

0:24:47.800 --> 0:24:54.920
Iain Walker
There's a marginal increase in the length of the case study in 1750 to 1900 words.

0:24:55.780 --> 0:25:2.910
Iain Walker

Uh candidates will again get access to that case study for a set period of the time before the examination.

0:25:4.0 --> 0:25:17.980
Iain Walker
Contributing units are increasing from 4 to 5, to broaden the coverage of the core units within each of the award, and I just note that it's 5 to 6 for global trade and business. That award has always had an additional contributing unit.

0:25:19.940 --> 0:25:28.110
Iain Walker
There's increased learner choice by adding a question on business fundamentals to the emerging Technologies Unit, Section 2.

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Iain Walker
And that means that candidates now get this increase in choice by being able to pick from section 2

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Iain Walker
3 from 5 questions, whereas in the units that are just going off, it's only three questions from 4. So there is actually an increased choice for the candidates.

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Iain Walker
Graded Unit 2, something known as the Project unit,

0:25:54.60 --> 0:25:55.340
Iain Walker
What's the same? Well,

0:25:55.960 --> 0:26:0.570
Iain Walker
It's still worth 2 SQA unit credits at SCQF level 8.

0:26:1.500 --> 0:26:6.20
Iain Walker
The contributing units are listed in unit specification, for each of the awards.

0:26:7.0 --> 0:26:12.530
Iain Walker
It is an individual, investigative project, exactly the same as it is at the minute in that sense.

0:26:13.380 --> 0:26:17.220
Iain Walker
There are 3 stages: planning, development, evaluation.

0:26:18.420 --> 0:26:26.290
Iain Walker
There is still a personal skills audit. And there is a reflective log, as there is in the current unit.

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Iain Walker
ABC grades remain.

0:26:30.440 --> 0:26:33.70
Iain Walker
The pass mark still remains at 50%.

0:26:34.340 --> 0:26:39.130
Iain Walker
The unit specification and the ASP, that specifying minimum marks required.

0:26:40.0 --> 0:26:49.480
Iain Walker
There's criteria for additional marks that are specified, and there's still the potential to integrate the unit, research skills, to deliver it.

0:26:50.180 --> 0:26:53.170
Iain Walker
Within, or subsumed within Graded Unit 2.

0:26:56.800 --> 0:27:5.350
Iain Walker
OK, so what's new? Well, the mark allocations for the project sections have changed slightly and planning is worth

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Iain Walker
24%.

0:27:8.260 --> 0:27:15.630
Iain Walker
But the contents of planning is based on 16% for the brief

0:27:16.330 --> 0:27:31.500
Iain Walker
6% for the plan and 2% for the reflective log. Now that is a change and the reflective log is now marked partially within the planning stage, whereas previously it was in the developing stage.

0:27:32.720 --> 0:27:40.110
Iain Walker
There's improved structure within the planning stage with less repetition than in units that are being removed.

0:27:41.830 --> 0:27:44.590
Iain Walker
The marks and maximum marks are defined.

0:27:45.760 --> 0:27:53.60
Iain Walker
There's a word guide now provided, which wasn't previously the case for the planning stage and that should give the students some guidance.

0:27:54.20 --> 0:27:55.180
Iain Walker
The plan period.

0:27:55.850 --> 0:28:1.660
Iain Walker
Students have to prepare project plan is now for the developing stage only.

0:28:2.330 --> 0:28:10.850
Iain Walker
So they produce a plan in the planning stage, but the plan actually only covers the actual completion of the project, so to speak.

0:28:12.640 --> 0:28:16.870
Iain Walker
The marks included in the brief planning stage for reflective log.

0:28:17.690 --> 0:28:38.680
Iain Walker
Well, that was previously in the developing stage, but now there's marks in the planning stage and developing stage for the reflective log, and that reflective log was previously known as a log and we've changed the title to try and get the message across to the candidates that there should be reflection in that log rather than just logging what they actually did.

0:28:42.850 --> 0:28:47.170
Iain Walker
In the developing stage, there are about 54% of the marks available.

0:28:48.20 --> 0:28:51.470
Iain Walker
And 40% is for the report itself or the project.

0:28:52.700 --> 0:28:56.450
Iain Walker
10% is available for presentation and

0:28:57.110 --> 0:29:5.90
Iain Walker
4% for the reflective log and that's in addition to 2% of the reflective log contained in the planning stage.

0:29:6.690 --> 0:29:19.390
Iain Walker
There's more structure than defined content with minimum and maximum marks, than there was before, so there's much more guidance on how the actual project should be structured and that's beneficial for students, because students like to know.

0:29:20.110 --> 0:29:25.530
Iain Walker
What it is that they need to do they like instruction on what they what they need to do and there's better definition.

0:29:26.250 --> 0:29:35.100
Iain Walker
So there's better defined criteria as well for the additional marks. That includes the potential to award marks, the use of references and citations.

0:29:35.730 --> 0:29:51.180
Iain Walker
So we're trying to encourage students to produce, uh, basically produce university standard work and to refer to other authors, citations, quotations, etcetera.

0:29:51.850 --> 0:29:53.330
Iain Walker
And that can be rewarded.

0:29:54.220 --> 0:30:3.370
Iain Walker
And presentation has also got more marks than previously and it includes a mark allocation for references and or bibliography.

0:30:6.980 --> 0:30:14.590
Iain Walker
In the evaluation stage, the third stage of the project, we've reduced the available mark slightly down to 22%.

0:30:15.650 --> 0:30:45.250
Iain Walker
And it was to try and improve the balance of marks and reduce the skewing of grades, because previously there was a higher allocation of marks for the evaluation and students who had done, made a marginal project in the first few stages could then try and gain, really try and gain, a lot of marks in the evaluation and maybe take it to a grade above which the overall project was really worth. So we've reduced that mark allocation just slightly to try to reduce the chance of skewing grades.

0:30:46.100 --> 0:30:55.970
Iain Walker
There's better definition of content with minimum and maximum marks, and there's also better defined criteria for additional marks.

0:30:56.670 --> 0:31:17.450
Iain Walker
And I'd just like the stress at this point that for each or units, it's very, very important that you read the unit specifications carefully, study the assessments support packs and undertake your internal verification standardisation processes. I wish you every success. Thank you.