



## **Advanced Higher Economics**

---

### **Draft National Course Assessment Specification**

---



**Valid from August 2015**

This edition: December 2012, draft version 1.0

Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Assessment Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

# Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Course outline</b>                                 | <b>1</b> |
| Course assessment structure                           | 1        |
| Equality and inclusion                                | 1        |
| <b>Assessment</b>                                     | <b>2</b> |
| Course assessment                                     | 2        |
| Added value   | 2        |
| Grading   | 2        |
| Structure and coverage of the Course assessment       | 4        |
| Setting, conducting and marking of assessment         | 6        |
| Further mandatory information on Course coverage      | 7        |
| <b>Administrative information</b>                     | <b>9</b> |
| History of changes to Course Assessment Specification | 9        |

# Course outline

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Course title:</b>           | Advanced Higher Economics |
| <b>SCQF level:</b>             | 7 (32 SCQF credit points) |
| <b>Course code:</b>            | to be advised             |
| <b>Course assessment code:</b> | to be advised             |

The purpose of the Course Assessment Specification is to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It describes the structure of the Course assessment and the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed.

## Course assessment structure

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Component 1 — question paper | 80 marks         |
| Component 2 — project        | 50 marks         |
| <b>Total marks</b>           | <b>130 marks</b> |

This Course includes eight SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course.

## Equality and inclusion

This Course Assessment Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to assessment. Assessments have been designed to promote equal opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the qualification.

For guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and/or those with additional support needs, please follow the link to the Assessment Arrangements web page: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14977.html).

Guidance on inclusive approaches to delivery and assessment of this Course is provided in the *Course Support Notes*.

# Assessment

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

## Course assessment

SQA will produce and give instructions for the production and conduct of Course assessments based on the information provided in this document.

## Added value

The purpose of the Course assessment is to assess added value of the Course as well as confirming attainment in the Course and providing a grade. The added value for the Course will address the key purposes and aims of the Course, as defined in the Course rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge, or application.

In this Course assessment, added value will focus on the following:

- ◆ challenge — requiring greater depth or extension of knowledge and/or skills
- ◆ application — requiring application of knowledge and/or skills in practical or theoretical contexts as appropriate

This added value consists of:

- ◆ researching current economic situations, many of which will be complex, to make informed economic judgements and decisions
- ◆ selecting relevant economic information, much of which will be complex, to make informed economic decisions
- ◆ applying knowledge and understanding of complex economic concepts to current economic situations
- ◆ evaluating complex economic data and evidence from an extensive range of sources to draw and present conclusions
- ◆ communicating economic reasoning and conclusions clearly and logically

## Grading

Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

The Course assessment is graded A–D. The grade is determined on the basis of the total mark for all Course assessments together.

A learner's overall grade will be determined by their performance across the Course assessment.

**Grade description for C**

For the award of Grade C, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will typically have demonstrated application of skills and knowledge of understanding of economic theories and concepts to effectively analyse, and suggest solutions for, current economic issues.

**Grade description for A**

For the award of Grade A, learners will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, learners will have demonstrated the ability to consistently apply skills and knowledge of understanding of economic theories and concepts to effectively analyse, and provide solutions for, current economic issues, to a high level of performance.

**Credit**

To take account of the extended range of learning and teaching approaches, remediation, consolidation of learning and integration needed for preparation for external assessment, six SCQF credit points are available in Courses at National 5 and Higher, and eight SCQF credit points in Courses at Advanced Higher. These points will be awarded when a Grade D or better is achieved.

## Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

The Course assessment will consist of two Components: a question paper and an assignment. The question paper will have two Sections.

### Component 1 — question paper

The purpose of this question paper is to address challenge and application. These will be assessed by drawing on, and by sampling, the skills, knowledge and understanding from across the Course. Learners will also be required to apply their knowledge and understanding of complex economic concepts and situations.

The question paper will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding by:

- ◆ applying and integrating knowledge and understanding of complex economic concepts from all aspects of the Course
- ◆ communicating complex economic ideas with clarity and logic
- ◆ interpreting complex economic information
- ◆ making economic judgements and/or decisions by evaluating complex economic data, evidence and issues
- ◆ using economic evidence to draw valid conclusions

The question paper will have 80 marks (62% of the total mark) and has two Sections.

**Section 1** will have 30 marks and will consist of a number of mandatory short-answer questions based on an item of stimulus material. The questions will be drawn from across the Course.

**Section 2** will have 50 marks and will consist of extended response questions drawn from across the Course.

### Component 2 — project

The purpose of this project is to address challenge and application by applying skills, knowledge and understanding from across the Course. The project will require learners to apply research, analytical, evaluative, data handling and decision making skills within the context of an economic topic or issue, and present the findings.

This project will have 50 marks (38% of the total mark).

This project will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to:

- ◆ select an appropriate current economic issue
- ◆ research and gather suitable economic data/information, related to the context of the economic issue, from a wide range of sources
- ◆ apply knowledge and understanding of economic concepts to explain and analyse the issue
- ◆ make informed economic judgements and draw valid conclusions about the issue

The mark allocation for the project will emphasise the assessment of skills.

For further details of the Course requirements, please see the 'Further mandatory information on Course coverage' section of this Course Assessment Specification.

Draft

## **Setting, conducting and marking of assessment**

### **Question paper**

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Learners will complete this in 2 hours 30 minutes.

### **Controlled assessment — project**

This project is:

- ◆ set by SQA
- ◆ conducted under a low level of supervision and control

Evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

### **Setting the project**

Set by SQA.

### **Conducting the assessment**

Conducted under a low level of supervision and control.

The economic issue or topic will be chosen by the candidate and will be conducted under supervision and control to ensure that the work presented is the learner's own. Centres are responsible for ensuring the authentication of learners' work.

The research and data/collection can be completed individually or as a group, but data from the research must be kept on an individual basis.

Guidelines regarding the time frame for starting and completing the project will be provided by SQA.

## Further mandatory information on Course coverage

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Advanced Higher Economics Course. Course assessment will involve sampling the skills, knowledge and understanding. This list of skills, knowledge and understanding also provides the basis for the assessment of Units of the Course.

When preparing learners for the Course assessment, please refer first to the 'Structure and coverage of the Course assessment' section.

### Economic Markets: Structures and Intervention

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Market Structures   | <p>Perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition:</p> <p>Underpinning assumptions<br/>Short-run and long-run output and pricing decisions (including graphical representations)<br/>Efficiency<br/>Price discrimination in monopoly</p> <p>Oligopoly:</p> <p>Underpinning assumptions<br/>Kinked demand curve theory, collusion and price wars</p> |
| Market intervention | <p>Legal monopoly: UK and EU competition policy, framework and effectiveness</p> <p>Externalities: positive and negative externalities in production and consumption, including graphical representations</p> <p>Government policies to correct externalities and their effectiveness</p>  |

### National and Global Economic Issues

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| National economic issues | <p>Reasons for trends in the following indicators, pertaining to the previous two years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</li> <li>— Inflation</li> <li>— Unemployment</li> <li>— Budgetary position</li> <li>— Sterling exchange rate</li> <li>— Balance of payments</li> </ul> <p>Government policies — monetary, fiscal, supply side. Framework, transmission and effectiveness</p> <p>Other current economic issues — eg developments in the property, oil and energy markets or other relevant issues</p> <p>The impact of the aging population on the UK economy</p> |
| Global economic issues   | <p>Global economic issues pertaining to the previous two years:</p> <p>European Union and Eurozone</p> <p>Developing economies: reasons for varying rates of economic growth</p> <p>Emerging economies: reasons for and threats to economic growth</p> <p>The role of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) in the global economy</p> <p>Globalisation and trends in world trade</p>   |

### Researching an Economic Issue

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Current economic issue | The issue chosen must be current.<br><br>Planning and time management skills<br>Research methods<br>Analytical techniques<br>Presentation of evidence<br>Draw valid conclusions<br>Referencing and bibliography |
|------------------------|---|

Draft

# Administrative information

---

**Published:** December 2012 (draft version 1.0)

**Superclass:** to be advised

---

## History of changes to Course Assessment Specification

| Course details | Version | Description of change | Authorised by | Date |
|----------------|---------|-----------------------|---------------|------|
|                |         |                       |               |      |
|                |         |                       |               |      |
|                |         |                       |               |      |
|                |         |                       |               |      |

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2012

This specification may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged. Additional copies of this Unit can be downloaded from SQA's website at [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

Note: You are advised to check SQA's website ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)) to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of the Course Specification.