



Advanced Higher English

Draft National Course Assessment Specification



Valid from August 2015

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

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Course outline

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Course title: | Advanced Higher English |
| SCQF level: | 7 (32 SCQF credit points) |
| Course code: | to be advised |
| Course assessment code: | 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 — portfolio 70 marks

Component 2 — question paper 30 marks

Total marks 100 marks

This Course includes six 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.

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:

- ◆ the ability to have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of set complex literary texts
- ◆ the ability to plan, research and present the findings of an independent project on an aspect of literature
- ◆ the ability to create and produce complex written texts

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 successful performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

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 typically have demonstrated a consistently high level of performance in relation to the mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course.

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.

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Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

The Course assessment will consist of two Components: a question paper and a portfolio.

Component 1 — portfolio

The purpose of this question paper is to assess learners' ability to produce a project on an aspect or aspects of literature, and to produce written texts.

This portfolio will give learners an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

- ◆ independent planning, research and presentation of their knowledge and understanding of an aspect or aspects of literature
- ◆ writing in different genres and for a range of purposes and audiences

This portfolio has two Sections.

This portfolio will have 70 marks (70% of the total mark).

Section 1: project

Learners will produce a project to demonstrate planning, research and presentation of their knowledge and understanding of an aspect or aspects of literature.

The aspect or aspects of literature must come from a different text or texts from the text or texts used in the question paper.

Learners must use information from secondary sources, including interpretations from other readers.

This project will be at least 3,500 words long and will have 40 marks (40% of the total mark).

Section 2: writing

Learners will produce two pieces of writing for two different purposes. The writing can be from the following types:

- ◆ persuasive
- ◆ informative
- ◆ discursive
- ◆ creative

This Section will have 30 marks (30% of the total mark).

Component 2 — question paper

The purpose of this question paper is to assess learners' ability to apply the skills of critical analysis and evaluation to literary texts.

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

- ◆ the skills of critical analysis and evaluation of previously studied literary texts

Learners will choose one question from a range of questions to provide an extended written response. The questions allow learners to compare literary texts.

Learners must use a different text or texts from those studied in the project project.

The question paper will have 30 marks (30% of the total mark).

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Setting, conducting and marking of assessment

Question paper — analysing and evaluating literary texts

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 1 hour and 30 minutes. There will be one question.

Controlled assessment — portfolio (project and writing)

This portfolio is:

- ◆ set by centres within SQA guidelines
- ◆ conducted under some supervision and control

Evidence will be submitted to SQA for external marking.

All marking will be quality assured by SQA.

Setting the assessment

Set by centres within SQA guidelines.

Conducting the assessment

Conducted under some supervision and control.

Further mandatory information on Course coverage

The following gives details of mandatory skills, knowledge and understanding for the Advanced Higher English 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.

Command of:

- ◆ knowledge of literary forms and genres
- ◆ knowledge of literature
- ◆ knowledge of literary techniques and devices
- ◆ skills required for a range of writing purposes: persuasive, informative, discursive, creative

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