Modern Languages: Understanding the next steps for session 2016–17

Early in 2016, each subject area was reviewed and the results published in individual Subject Review Reports in May. Some actions applied immediately for candidates in session 2016–17, other actions were for later years.

This Guidance note explains the impact on assessment for candidates being presented in session 2016–17 and must be read in conjunction with the Subject Review Report as the principal guide to arrangements for this year.

(Previously published subject documents affected by the subject changes will be amended in due course. There may be a period of misalignment.)

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Session 2016–17

Course assessment — Performance: talking

National 5 and Higher

From exam diet 2017 onwards:

There will be the inclusion of an additional pegged mark (1 mark, where the previous pegs were 5/3/0) for the sustaining the conversation element. This will allow centres more flexibility and confidence in awarding the appropriate mark for this element of the Course assessment.

In addition, pegged mark descriptors will be expanded at both levels to better reflect the wider aspects of candidate performance.

Understanding Standards packs are being revised to include updates where the additional pegged mark of 1 mark has been applied. Packs have also been updated to reflect wording and terminology changes in the revised marking instructions (MIs).

Any revised documentation, such as Coursework Assessment Task or General Assessment Information will be published in September 2016.

Course assessment — question paper

From 2017 onwards the overall purpose question will no longer feature in the following question papers:

- National 5 Reading and Listening
- Higher Listening
- Advanced Higher Listening