

## Economics: Advanced Higher, Higher, Intermediate 2, Intermediate 1

Headroom Provided by NABs	Orientation of Grade Descriptions	Basis of evidence for Estimates, Absentee consideration and Assessment Appeals
Some headroom	Mainly output	<p>Evidence for Estimates, Absentee consideration and Assessment Appeals at all levels must show a sufficient breadth of coverage of the content of the Units of each Course and must relate to the Course Grade Descriptions found in the Arrangements documents.</p> <p>Centres can make an estimate of a candidate’s performance in two ways:</p> <p>The first and more effective method is based on generating evidence for Estimates solely on an assessment which matches the external assessment requirements of the Course in both format and standard. The questions should provide the opportunity for the candidate to demonstrate performance through grades C to A. The assessment could take the form of a prelim exam and this would serve the purpose of giving candidates experience of answering the type of questions they will encounter in the final examination subject to exam conditions. Alternatively, integrated tasks/questions may be administered using a variety of source material, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ the assessment material produced by LTS (formerly HSDU) for summative assessment purposes</li> <li>◆ taking questions from either the specimen paper or the 2000 and subsequent operational exam papers. (NOTE: Using the specimen or subsequent exam papers in their entirety would not be acceptable, but choosing a mix of questions from a minimum of three past papers is acceptable.)</li> </ul> <p>The second method is based on evidence generated from internal assessment of the Units. This evidence may be based on either the NAB items or other assessment items which the centre may have had prior moderated by SQA. Centres should ensure that the evidence covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ both of the Units which comprise the Course at Advanced Higher</li> <li>◆ six of the 10 outcomes from the two Units which comprise the Course at Higher level</li> <li>◆ six of the 10 outcomes from the two Units which comprise the Course at Intermediate 2</li> <li>◆ all of the outcomes from two of the Units which comprise the Course at Intermediate 1</li> </ul> <p>Because there is some headroom in the NAB items in Economics, centres are able to use this evidence to estimate possible performance at grades A, B or C in the external assessment. It should be noted however, that as the NAB items are predominantly outcome based, there are serious limitations in their use for estimate purposes. Estimates are likely to be more reliable if they include performance in integrated tasks/questions which are based on the Grade Descriptions for the Course.</p> <p>Evidence assembled in support of an Assessment Appeal should cover the content of all the Units, so high scoring evidence generated in the NABs will lend weight to an Appeal. In addition, the evidence should show attainment as measured against the Grade Descriptions and be comparable in depth and breadth to that specified in the external assessment requirements of the Course. This could be compiled by combining the evidence gathered for the estimate (ie a prelim or integrated tasks/questions) along with other evidence generated towards the end of the Course, ie between the submission of Estimates and the end of the Course.</p>

### Contact

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## **Summary: Evidence requirements for Estimates, Absentees and External Assessment Appeals**

### **Estimates**

Centres make Estimates of their candidates' expected attainment in National Courses. You should take care to ensure that Estimates reflect candidates' abilities against the requirements of the Course, not just the requirements for the Units which make up the Course.

Since Estimates relate to achievement of a Course, the assessment instruments which are used to generate evidence for Estimates should allow candidates opportunities to demonstrate attainment against the requirements for the Course. Assessment instruments which assess candidates' abilities against the outcomes of National Units can help with making decisions about Estimates. However, NABs cannot normally, on their own, generate sufficient evidence of how a candidate can perform against the assessment criteria (eg retention, integration) for a Course.

### **Absentees and External Assessment Appeals**

Submissions for Absentee consideration and Assessment Appeals must be supported by valid, reliable evidence of the candidate's demonstrated attainment against the requirements for the externally-assessed components of the Course.

No past papers, including SQA past papers, will be accepted in their entirety as the assessment instrument used to generate evidence for Absentee consideration or External Assessment Appeals. However, questions selected carefully from a minimum of three past papers, preferably adapted (to ensure the breadth and depth of coverage required to satisfy the Course Grade Descriptions) can be combined to form a valid assessment instrument.

Where a centre is submitting Appeals for a significant proportion (ie more than 10%) of a cohort, it should send with the Appeals a rationale explaining why these candidates did not perform to the standard expected in the externally assessed component(s). Rationales will be used by Examiners to assist decision-making.

Evidence submitted for Absentee consideration and External Assessment Appeals must include:

- ◆ a copy of the assessment instrument(s) with details of the source of questions used (eg past papers) and associated marking schemes with cut-off scores which have been applied
- ◆ evidence which has been generated by these assessment instrument(s), before the date of the external assessment, and which has been marked in accordance with the marking schemes provided
- ◆ a clear indication of the completion date for each piece of evidence

It is the responsibility of centres to ensure the validity, reliability and security of assessment instruments, and authenticity of candidate evidence used for Estimates, Absentee consideration and External Assessment Appeals.