

Technological Studies: Advanced Higher, Higher, Intermediate 2

Headroom Provided by NABs	Orientation of Grade Descriptions	Basis of evidence for Estimates, Absentee consideration and Assessment Appeals
Limited headroom	Mainly task	<p>Evidence for Estimates, Absentee consideration and Assessment Appeals at all levels must show a sufficient breadth of coverage of the content of the the Units of each Course, and must relate to the Course Grade Descriptions.</p> <p>For Estimates, the minimum content covered at Advanced Higher, Higher and Intermediate 2 should be equivalent to two 40-hour Units. The evidence should also demonstrate that the candidate has responded well to a number of tasks which are comparable in demand and complexity to those exemplified by the specimen question paper. Valid evidence of attainment, as identified by the Course Grade Descriptions for grade C and grade A, may be generated from additional tests, for example a summative assessment, or through integrated assessment activities which combine evidence from two or more Units. These should match the standard of the external Course examination and cover the range of content for each level. If a prelim is used, it may be possible to build a NAB into such an assessment instrument, or to augment the NABs with assessment tasks which allow candidates to demonstrate performance beyond that required by the Units.</p> <p>Evidence assembled in support of an Assessment Appeal should cover the content of all Units. This could be compiled by combining the evidence gathered for the estimate with other assessment evidence generated towards the end of the Course, ie between the submission of Estimates and the external examination, for example, through integrated assessment activities which combine evidence from two or more Units. It should provide evidence of attainment as measured against the Grade Descriptions. It should always include assessment evidence to cover all Units. High-scoring evidence generated in the NAB Unit assessments at the appropriate level will lend weight to an Appeal, particularly where NABs provide headroom, ie the opportunity for the demonstration of attainment as measured by the Course Grade Descriptions.</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.