



Advanced Higher
Course Assessment
Specification



Advanced Higher English Course Assessment Specification (C724 77)

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

Course title:	Advanced Higher English
SCQF level:	7 (32 SCQF credit points)
Course code:	C724 77
Course assessment code:	X724 77

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: Literary Study	20 marks
Component 2 — Question paper: Textual Analysis	20 marks
Component 3 — Portfolio–writing	30 marks
Component 4 — Project–dissertation	30 marks
Total marks	100 marks

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 candidates 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 apply in-depth knowledge and understanding to complex and sophisticated seen and unseen literary texts
- ◆ the ability to plan, research and present the findings of an independent dissertation on an aspect of literature
- ◆ the ability to create and produce complex and sophisticated 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, candidates will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, candidates 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, candidates will have demonstrated successful performance in all of the Units of the Course. In the Course assessment, candidates 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.

Structure and coverage of the Course assessment

Component 1 — question paper (Literary Study)

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

- ◆ Candidates will choose one question from a range of questions and write a critical essay in response to it.
- ◆ Candidates will select from poetry, prose, prose non fiction or drama. This will have 20 marks (20% of the total mark).

The texts chosen must not be the same as those used in the dissertation.

Component 2 — question paper (Textual Analysis)

The purpose of this question paper is to assess candidates' ability to apply the skills of critical analysis and evaluation to an unseen literary text.

- ◆ Candidates will choose one question on an unseen literary text and write an extended critical analysis of it.
- ◆ Candidates will select from poetry, prose, prose non fiction or drama. This will have 20 marks (20% of the total mark).

The candidates are free to select the same genre in each question paper.

Component 3 — portfolio-writing

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

- ◆ writing in different genres for a range of purposes and audiences

Candidates will produce two pieces of writing for two different purposes and audiences. The writing can be from any of the following types:

- ◆ persuasive
- ◆ informative
- ◆ argumentative
- ◆ personal/reflective
- ◆ poetry
- ◆ prose fiction
- ◆ drama

There is no requirement to write both creatively and discursively.

This Component will have 30 marks (30% of the total mark). Up to 15 marks will be awarded for each piece of writing selected for the portfolio.

Component 4 — project-dissertation

This dissertation will give candidates 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

The text(s) chosen must not be the same as those used in the Literary Study question paper.

This dissertation will be between 2,500 and 3,000 words long and will have 30 marks (30% of the total mark).

Setting, conducting and marking of assessment

Question paper — Literary Study

This question paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Candidates will complete this in 1.5 hours.

Question paper — Textual Analysis

This paper will be set and marked by SQA, and conducted in centres under conditions specified for external examinations by SQA. Candidates will complete this in 1.5 hours.

There will be a short break between the papers.

Controlled assessment: Coursework (portfolio–writing, and project–dissertation)

- ◆ 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.

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

Administrative information

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History of changes to Course Assessment Specification

Course details	Version	Description of change	Authorised by	Date
	1.1	Details updated on front cover. Additional guidance provided in Structure and Coverage of Course Assessment section, including additional information provided on use of texts in Component 4. Additional guidance provided in Setting, Conducting and Marking of Assessment section.	Qualifications Development Manager	April 2015

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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 Assessment Specification.

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