



Common questions about National 3, National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Art and Design

Changes to assessment of National Courses

In September 2016 the [Deputy First Minister announced that units and unit assessments would be removed from National 5 to Advanced Higher courses.](#)

What does this mean for you?

We will strengthen course assessments to ensure they assess the full content of the course. Given the tight timescale for introducing these changes, we listened to the advice of our National Qualification Support Teams and carefully considered what removal of the unit assessments means for each subject.

Units will be removed in the following order:

- ◆ National 5 from 2017–18
- ◆ Higher from 2018–19
- ◆ Advanced Higher from 2019–20

For up to date information, please visit www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges

National 5 and Higher courses

What is the structure of the National 5 and Higher Art and Design courses?

There are two internally-assessed units:

- ◆ *Art and Design: Design Activity*
- ◆ *Art and Design: Expressive Activity*

And two externally-assessed components of course assessment:

- ◆ a portfolio
- ◆ a question paper

If a candidate receives a band 8 or 9 (no award) in the National 5 Art and Design course, will they be able to gain a course award in National 4 Art and Design?

A candidate who receives a band 8 or 9 (no award) in the National 5 course assessment will be able to gain the National 4 course award, as long as the following requirements are met:

- ◆ the candidate has passed all of the internally-assessed units in the National 5 Art and Design course
- ◆ the candidate has passed the National 4 *Art and Design: Practical Activity* added value unit

Please note that if you wish to use a National 5 portfolio as evidence for the National 4 added value unit then the work must be of a suitable standard and provide evidence for all assessment standards.

Further information on 'Recognising Positive Achievement' is available on our Delivery Processes web page: www.sqa.org.uk/cfedelivery

Please note that this arrangement will not operate from session 2017–18 onwards as the removal of units from National 5 courses means that the unitised model — on which RPA is based — will no longer exist.

If a candidate receives a band 8 or 9 (no award) in the Higher Art and Design course, will they be able to gain a course award in National 5 Art and Design?

No, the above arrangements only apply to National 4/National 5.

Internal assessment

Do we have to send the unit work to SQA to be centrally marked?

No, candidates will be internally assessed on a pass/fail basis against the outcomes and assessment standards in the unit specifications. Assessment decisions should be based on whether the candidate's response meets the requirements of the assessment standards for the outcome. Unit work is subject to external visiting verification.

Is there a separate Art and Design Studies unit?

No, there is a two-unit structure: *Art and Design: Expressive Activity* and *Art and Design: Design Activity*. Each unit integrates what was previously known as Art and Design Studies with the practical work.

Do the artists and designers studied in outcome 1 of the units have to relate to the practical work in outcome 2?

Yes, they have to relate in some way to the theme of the unit. Consequently the study of artists and designers should inform the practical work.

How should candidates present evidence for their unit assessment?

Evidence for unit assessment can be presented in any appropriate format, eg sketchbooks, journals, logs, ideas book, electronic diary, teacher observation checklists, annotated comments or written notes. Centres should ensure that the relevant assessment standards are clearly identified. This could be on the work itself, on an accompanying checklist or on an assessment log.

Does the 1750 timeline apply to the new National Courses?

No, there is no restriction of this nature.

What are the requirements of the National 4 added value unit?

Candidates will select one expressive idea and one design idea from their previous work and will then use these ideas to plan and produce a final piece of expressive artwork and a design solution. They will then evaluate their final piece of expressive artwork and the design solution.

This unit will be internally assessed and candidates do not need to mount or formally present their work for assessment purposes.

A unit assessment support pack is available for teachers/lecturers which includes a template which could be used by candidates to record evidence of evaluation of their art and design work.

National 5 and Higher course assessment: portfolio

How can the portfolio work be presented?

Work can be presented in a variety of ways for course assessment. The overall maximum size for work, including 3D work, should not exceed three A2 size, single-sided sheets or equivalent for the Design portfolio, and three A2 size, single-sided sheets or equivalent for the Expressive portfolio. 3D work should not exceed 30cm in any dimension.

Portfolios must be able to be folded to a size not exceeding A1.

Portfolio sheets may be assembled in **either landscape and/or portrait format** as required to accommodate differences in the amount and scale of development and finished art and design work produced by individual candidates.

As candidates can present their work in a variety of ways, it is important to label their submission indicating the number of sheets, eg 1 of 3, 2 of 3, 3 of 3 as appropriate. Candidates should clearly identify the initial idea/starting point to be developed in the portfolio and any research and investigation work which is being provided to inform and support the further development of the selected idea. Please note that **no marks are awarded for this work**.

Multiple layering of work is not acceptable. All work selected for external assessment should occupy its own space on the sheets.

Evaluations should be attached to the sheets and not overlap work or extend beyond the three A2 sheets or equivalent.

The selection of candidate work presented in each stage of the portfolio should take account of the specific assessment criteria against which the portfolio stages will be judged, as described in the National 5 coursework assessment task document.

How should candidates present their evaluations?

We have produced new evaluation templates for candidates to complete and submit with their Design and Expressive portfolios. The use of these templates is optional for session 2016–17; however it will be a requirement from session 2017–18 onwards. This template can be found on the Art and Design homepage for both National 5 and Higher under 'Submitting Coursework': <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47892.html>

Centres should note that evaluations should focus on explaining the choice of materials/techniques/technology and also on giving supported comments on the final piece. There is no merit in evaluations being unnecessarily lengthy. Refer to the detailed marking instructions in the National 5 and Higher Art and Design portfolio coursework assessment task.

Should the portfolio demonstrate evidence of the candidate's investigation into artists and designers?

The portfolio does not need to demonstrate evidence of the candidate's investigation of artists and designers and their work. This knowledge and understanding will be demonstrated in the question paper. However, the candidate's practical work is likely to draw upon and develop some aspects of this understanding, through their use of media handling and techniques or choice of stimuli. When presenting the original starting point for the subsequent art and design work, centres could choose to include a reference to aspects of their study of artists and designers if they felt it helped to showcase the development process. This could take the form of a copy of a particular painting or piece of design. However, it should be noted that an example of the candidate's creative starting point must also be included.

Do candidates need to include investigation and research work in the portfolio?

Candidates should only include an edited and limited selection of relevant investigation and/or research work if it clearly supports and helps identify the candidates' creative starting point for the further development of their original Expressive idea and their original Design idea. Candidates should also communicate their Expressive theme and the main points of the design brief. This could be a short description highlighting the main elements of the brief rather than submitting the full details.

The purpose of including this work is to contextualise the portfolio and also to provide supporting evidence of the continued development of a single line of enquiry. This work should be kept to a minimum and be **clearly identified**. Inclusion of unnecessary or unrelated unit work can make the candidates' line of development difficult to follow and it may appear unfocused. No marks are awarded for this work. (For further detail see question *What is the relationship between unit work and the portfolio?*).

For more information, please see the course reports:

- ◆ [National 5 2016 Course Report](#)
- ◆ [Higher 2016 Course Report](#)

Can candidates request the return of their portfolio work?

Yes, candidates can request the return of their National 5 and Higher portfolios. More information on the return of externally-assessed materials can be found at: www.sqa.org.uk/returnofmaterials.

What is the relationship between unit work and the portfolio?

Art and Design: Expressive

Candidates will focus on producing expressive drawings, studies and investigative research using a variety of art materials, techniques and/or technology in response to a theme/stimuli. They will then develop initial compositional ideas and artwork in response to the theme/stimuli. The unit assessment support packs (available on SQA's secure website) provide details of the minimum standard for a unit pass: three analytical drawings and/or studies of their subject matter which are then used to develop a minimum of two compositional ideas for expressive artwork. Please refer to the unit assessment support packs for full details.

Unit work comprises research, investigation and initial development; whereas the portfolio involves further development of a single idea, a final piece and evaluation. Unit work is internally assessed (pass/fail) and does not contribute to the marks awarded in the portfolio.

For the portfolio, candidates should state their theme and include the initial idea/starting point that is to be further developed. They could also include a selection of relevant research and investigation evidence to contextualise the further development work. The starting point and any contextual unit work included in the portfolio should be clearly identified as such. Evidence of this work (eg photographs, photocopies, teacher checklists) should be retained

in the centre as it may be required for external verification. Alternatively, centres could choose to submit the scanned/photocopied work and retain the originals.

The same principles apply to Art and Design: Design.

Please note that you should include relevant details from the design brief with the portfolio. This helps the marker to understand the candidate's intentions and also enables the candidate to evaluate the success of their outcome against the original requirements of the brief.

National 5 course assessment — question paper

Do candidates have a choice of questions in the question paper?

In National 5, the question paper has two sections: Expressive Art Studies and Design Studies.

Candidates will complete one mandatory and one optional question in each of these sections. In the Expressive Arts Studies section candidates will attempt the mandatory question and select **one** from a choice of five 'image' questions. In the Design Studies section candidates will attempt the mandatory question and select **one** from a choice of five 'image' questions.

Does the National 5 question paper have specific categories?

Specific categories are not identified in the National 5 question paper although there will be questions on 2D and 3D artworks. In the Expressive Art Studies section, people, places and objects (or combinations of these) will be represented with a variety of approaches, media and techniques, eg painting, photography, mixed media work, sculpture, installation, contemporary and traditional approaches.

In the Design Studies section of the question paper a range of 2D and 3D design areas will be represented. These will include examples of design work from the following broad categories: visual communication/graphics, product design, environmental design (architecture/structures/interiors), jewellery and fashion/textile design.

Do candidates have to write about a contemporary artist/designer?

The National 5 question paper will not specifically ask for responses to include reference to a contemporary artist/designer. The contemporary element is a requirement of the course — a candidate will have studied a contemporary artist/designer as part of their coursework but may not choose to write about this artist/designer in the question paper. Candidates will not be penalised if there is no reference to a contemporary artist/designer in their responses.

Higher course assessment — question paper

Do candidates have a choice of questions in the question paper?

At Higher, the question paper has two sections: Expressive Art Studies and Design Studies.

In the Expressive Art Studies section, candidates will select **one** from a choice of two image questions — question 1 or question 2, and **one** from question 3 or question 4.

In the Design Studies section, candidates will select **one** from a choice of two image questions — question 5 or question 6, and **one** from question 7 or question 8.

Does the Higher question paper have specific categories?

Specific categories are not identified in the Higher question paper. Questions and images will be accessible to all candidates and will allow for the variety of approaches taken by centres.

Do candidates have to write about a contemporary artist/designer?

The Higher question paper will not specifically ask for responses to include reference to a contemporary artist/designer. The contemporary element is a requirement of the course — a candidate will have studied a contemporary artist/designer as part of their coursework but may not choose to write about this artist/designer in the question paper. Candidates will not be penalised if there is no reference to a contemporary artist/designer in their responses.

Do candidates have to give biographical information about artists/designers?

The Higher question paper does not ask for biographical information on artists/designers, however, if such information is relevant and helps explain/expand on points a candidate has made, then this would be acceptable. General biographical information which does not explain/expand such points will not be awarded any marks. The focus of questions 3, 4, 7 and 8 part (b) is the artwork/design work that the candidate has chosen, not the artist(s)/designer(s).

Advanced Higher

What is the structure of the Advanced Higher Art and Design courses?

Advanced Higher Art and Design (Expressive)

There are two mandatory internally-assessed units:

- ◆ *Art and Design: Expressive Studies*
- ◆ *Art and Design: Expressive Enquiry*

And one externally-assessed component of course assessment:

- ◆ a portfolio

Advanced Higher Art and Design (Design)

There are two mandatory internally-assessed units:

- ◆ Art and Design: Design Studies
- ◆ Art and Design: Design Enquiry

And one externally-assessed component of course assessment:

- ◆ a portfolio

Do we have to send the unit work to SQA to be centrally marked?

No, candidates will be internally assessed on a pass/fail basis against the outcomes and assessment standards in the unit specifications. Assessment decisions should be based on whether the candidate's response meets the requirements of the assessment standards for the outcome. Unit work is subject to external visiting verification. However, unit work may be included in the opening sheet of the course presentation; this 'sheet one' is an introduction to the portfolio, setting out the aims, parameters (including the design brief in a Design portfolio) and background to the portfolio with an annotated presentation of research and initial ideas.

What is the relationship between unit work and the portfolio?

At Advanced Higher, the units of the course form a background and initial starting point of the portfolio. While completing the unit research, candidates study the work of artists or designers and identify and investigate stimuli or creative origins of their enquiry. This work is assessed internally, with external verification, as a self-contained unit, but the development of the unit work into the portfolio can be quite seamless as the process of research and development continues and evolves.

How can the portfolio be presented?

Portfolio sheets at Advanced Higher level can be up to A1 in size. A minimum of eight A1 sheets and a maximum of 15 A1 sheets or equivalent can be submitted. An 8–10 sheet portfolio is typical of a design project that also includes 3D work or animation. 3D work, or photographs of 3D work, can be submitted as part of the portfolio as appropriate.

Sketchbook(s) can be submitted as evidence, where they show further development and/or resolution of initial idea(s). Sketchbooks should clearly show which aspects of the sketchbook work are to be considered by markers.

It is helpful to markers to indicate the development of the portfolio by numbering the sheets sequentially. Numbering can go on the front or back of the sheets submitted for external assessment.

How can the critical analysis be presented?

Critical analysis — 2,000 words

Candidates will be penalised if they exceed these limits by 10%; ie submissions in excess of 2,300 words.

The applicable penalties are 10% of the available marks; therefore candidates who submit a critical analysis in excess of 2,300 words will have their assessed mark reduced by three.

Candidates should enter their word counts in the relevant boxes on the fly-leaf that accompanies their portfolio.

It can be presented in **any appropriate format**. For example, image(s) of the work(s) may be presented on one or more portfolio sheets along with detailed extensive annotations or in a separate document. Where annotations are used, they must be legible. Whichever way it is presented, the critical analysis should include accompanying and clearly-captioned images of the art work(s)/design work(s) researched, and the sources of information used must be clearly cited within the text and referenced using appropriate conventions. This written study should analyse a work or group of related works associated with the practical portfolio, and it should also explore selected aspects of contextual connections or ideas that link to the topic. These two parts, analysis and context, may be dealt with separately or together.

Are there any exemplars available for the Advanced Higher portfolio or critical analysis?

The Principal Assessor for Advancer Higher conducted a webinar session which is available to view in the Understanding Standards section of SQA's secure website. This hour-long video provides examples of portfolios and critical analysis.

Some exemplars of critical analysis for Advanced Higher are available on SQA's secure website, in the Understanding Standards section.

How should candidates present their evaluation?

Evaluation — 300 words

Candidates will be penalised if they exceed these limits by 10%; ie submissions in excess of 330 words.

The applicable penalties are 10% of the available marks; therefore candidates who exceed 330 words for the Evaluation will have their assessed mark reduced by one.

The evaluation can be presented in any preferred format, for example as a single sheet or a series of detailed annotations. Where annotations are used within the portfolio, they must be legible and candidate responses should clearly relate to the descriptions below.

Will candidates' Advanced Higher portfolios be returned to centres after the external assessment?

Advanced Higher Art and Design portfolios are no longer returned free of charge after the external assessment event in June. These portfolios must now be requested as part of the return of materials process and the appropriate fee must be paid. Requested portfolios will now be returned between October and December along with any other return of material requests. For further information please visit the return of materials web page:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/returnofmaterials>

Can a moving image piece/animation be submitted as a final piece for an Expressive portfolio? Does this risk marks?

An animation can be an Expressive final piece of work. Including animation in the portfolio does not compromise mark allocation.

There are specific marks for coherence in the new Advanced Higher, therefore it is important to structure and present the project as a single consistent enquiry. The process of developing ideas must be clearly shown, and it is important to present the work in a way that puts the development of ideas at the centre of the submission.

General Curriculum for Excellence questions and answers can be found on the [Frequently Asked Questions section](#) of SQA's website.