



Common questions about National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Economics

Unit assessment

Can candidates be assessed over a number of assessment occasions (rather than completing all Outcomes at once)?

Yes, candidates may work through the tasks and be assessed over a number of assessment occasions, for all Unit assessment support packs.

Can Units be assessed under open book conditions?

Units can be assessed under open book **or** closed book conditions — centres should use their professional judgement to decide which conditions are most appropriate.

Where a candidate has failed just one part of a Unit assessment, do they need to undertake a complete re-assessment?

No, if an Outcome or Assessment Standard is incomplete, the candidate only needs to be re-assessed on the specific Outcome or Assessment Standard in which they have been unsuccessful in demonstrating their attainment.

Is oral assessment acceptable when re-assessing?

Yes, this is acceptable, where appropriate, but this must be documented for verification purposes.

Course assessment

Can an assignment originally submitted for Higher be submitted unchanged for National 5 if the candidate changes level?

No, the assignment for Higher is a different piece of work with a different set of marking criteria. It is also completed within a different timescale.

Can an assignment that was submitted and marked by SQA in one session be submitted again if the candidate is resitting the Course?

Yes, if a candidate resits the Course, they would need to submit an assignment and this could be the one previously submitted.

What evidence should be submitted for Exceptional Circumstances consideration?

We would expect to see breadth and coverage of all Units in any evidence submitted for Exceptional Circumstances.

Do candidates select the topic or business to be researched in the National 5 and Higher assignments?

Yes, candidates select the topic themselves, with support from their teacher/lecturer.

Should the report writing stage of the National 5 and Higher Economics assignment be completed under controlled conditions?

Yes, this stage must be carried out under a high degree of supervision. Candidates must not communicate with one another and must be in sight of the teacher/lecturer while they are producing their report. The teacher/lecturer should not give any assistance.

Are candidates able to provide their own opinions?

Yes, if a candidate states their opinion and goes on to develop it, this can form part of a candidate's analysis.

What is the maximum length of the assignment?

At National 5, candidates should submit a maximum of four sides of A4 paper for the report, with an additional two sides of A4 paper for appendices, if required.

At Higher, candidates should submit a maximum of six sides of A4 paper for the report, with an additional four sides of A4 paper for appendices, if required.

How long do candidates have to complete the assignment?

The National 5 assignment should be completed in two stages; 'research, analysis and preparation' and 'producing the report'. The recommended time for 'research, analysis and preparation' is up to 4 hours and the 'producing the report' stage must not exceed 1 hour.

The Higher assignment should be completed in two stages; 'planning and gathering evidence' and 'report production'. The recommended time for 'planning and gathering evidence' is up to 6.5 hours and the 'report production' stage must not exceed 1.5 hours.

Question Paper

Will candidates be penalised for not using link words such as 'compare' or 'both'?

No, candidates will not be penalised but the use of such terms may help them to clarify their work.

Is it essential that candidates mention the exhibit in their answers?

Only in questions where they are specifically directed to refer to the text.

Are there any new command words?

No, there are no new command words, although the application of some command words has changed slightly. See the general marking principles and Marking Instructions provided with the Specimen Question Paper and Exemplar Question Paper.

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