



Common questions about National 3, National 4 and National 5 Hospitality: Practical Cookery

National 5 assignment and practical activity

How much help can teachers or lecturers give candidates with the time plan for the assignment?

As indicated in the course specification, the assignment must be carried out independently under the supervision of an assessor. Candidates must not use notes or annotated recipes while completing the assignment.

Centre staff should make a copy of candidate work, and submit the original version to SQA for marking. Teachers or lecturers may suggest corrections or improvements to the copy of the candidate's time plan to make it workable for the practical activity. Candidates should only receive a centre-devised time plan if they are unable to produce a workable plan after receiving additional guidance from their teacher or lecturer.

In the equipment requisition section of the assignment, should candidates include equipment for all dishes in one list?

No, the candidate workbook has a separate section for each dish.

Is it acceptable for a candidate to write 'equipment in my unit' in their equipment requisition?

No, candidates must indicate the specific equipment they need for each dish. The candidate workbook has a section for each dish, and candidates must identify suitable equipment to enable them to carry out all skills, techniques and processes.

In the practical activity, is a swirl of cream an acceptable garnish for soup?

All garnishes and decorations at National 5 should include a component (ingredient) and a preparation technique. A swirl of cream in soup has no preparation technique and is not suitable at this level.

National 5 question paper

What dietary advice is acceptable for assessment purposes?

The course specification states that the knowledge and application of 'current dietary advice' will be assessed. There is a lot of dietary advice that can be described as 'current'.

Candidates can include any dietary advice from a credible source in their responses.

National 3 and National 4 unit assessment

Can candidates prepare unit assessment dishes over a number of days or periods?

For the *Cookery Skills, Techniques and Processes* unit, the dishes can be assessed individually, for example one on the first session and one on the second, because it is the candidate's ability to carry out the range of skills and processes that is being assessed.

The *Organisational Skills for Cooking* unit assesses the organisational skills required to prepare and cook two dishes in parallel. Both dishes must be assessed together. If it is not possible to assess this unit in one session, then it could be assessed in the following way:

- ◆ session one: prepare ingredients for both dishes
- ◆ session two: cook and serve both dishes

Are unit assessments carried out under examination conditions?

Teachers or lecturers should refer to the assessment conditions section in the unit assessment support packs for individual unit assessment conditions.

Can unit assessment support packs be amended?

All unit assessment support packs are produced in Word. This enables teachers or lecturers to alter the layout of the assessment to suit their candidates, for example to allow more space for candidate responses.

If the method used by candidates to provide evidence for the assessment standards is altered, however, then this change should be [prior verified](#) by SQA.

Is it necessary to include a photograph of candidates' work?

Good quality photographs can help clarify assessor judgments, and can be used in conjunction with a less detailed assessor comment. If a photograph is not available, then a detailed assessor comment, indicating where each assessment standard has been met is required. This could be on the candidate workbook or in the assessor's checklist of candidate attainment, copies of which can be found in the unit assessment support pack.

Is there a pass mark for National 4 units?

Marks are not awarded in units. In order to pass any unit, including the National 4 added value unit, candidates must meet all assessment standards, as outlined in the third column of the judging evidence table in the unit assessment support pack. A candidate who fails to meet an assessment standard must be re-assessed in that assessment standard before they can achieve the unit.

General questions

Where can I find additional support materials?

Understanding Standards materials relating to unit and course assessment can be found in the Understanding Standards tab on SQA's secure website. PowerPoint presentations and workshop materials, including specimen question papers that were used at the Understanding Standards event, are available from www.understandingstandards.org.uk. For more information about Understanding Standards materials, please visit: www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards.

National Qualification questions and answers can be found on the [frequently asked questions section](#) of SQA's website.