



# **Common questions about National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Engineering Science**

## **Unit assessment**

### **Where can I get information on the evidence requirements for each Assessment Standard?**

We have published Unit assessment support packs, which are available from SQA's secure website. These packs cover three possible approaches to Unit assessment: Unit-by-Unit, combined or portfolio. Within each Unit assessment support pack you will find judging evidence tables. You should refer to the Unit assessment support pack that covers your approach to assessment, and follow the guidance contained within these tables.

### **Do I need to use one of the Unit assessment support packs to assess candidates for the Course Units?**

No. Unit assessment can be carried out in any way, providing that all the Outcomes and Assessment Standards are met at the appropriate level.

However, if you make substantial changes to a SQA Unit assessment, or create your own, we recommend submitting the assessment for prior verification to ensure that it is suitable. Find out more about prior verification [here](#).

### **What are the pass marks for the Unit-by-Unit Unit assessment support packs?**

There are no pass marks assigned to Unit assessment support packs. A candidate must meet all the Outcomes and Assessment Standards within each Unit.

### **What evidence is appropriate if I have verbally assessed a candidate, or observed their satisfactory completion of an Assessment Standard?**

Where evidence includes verbal responses from candidates, or a teacher's observation of the testing of a circuit etc, then evidence can be provided by a signed statement, outlining what was observed and what Assessment Standard(s) were met.

## **Can you give a National 4 candidate a National 5 Course assignment instead of a National 4 Added Value Unit assessment?**

No. A National 4 candidate should be given a National 4 Added Value Unit assessment; and a National 5 candidate should be given a National 5 Course assignment.

## **Course assessment**

### **If a National 5 candidate doesn't achieve the Course assessment, what needs to happen for them to get the National 4 Course award instead?**

Once grades are determined and centres are notified, SQA will advise which candidates fall into this position (ie they have passed all of the Units of a Course at National 5 but have not got a passing grade in the Course assessment). If the centre chooses, there is the opportunity for the candidate to achieve a National 4 Course award.

To do this, the centre would enter the candidate for the National 4 Added Value Unit, set the candidate a National 4 Added Value Unit assessment and then assess it, and result it as a pass. This Unit result would generate a pass for the National 4 Course.

In Engineering Science, the National 5 Course assignments and National 4 Added Value Unit assessments are very similar. Whilst this was designed to help facilitate bi-level delivery, it also assists candidates in the 'fall-back' situation described above.

Instead of doing a National 4 Added Value Unit assessment, the centre could re-assess the candidate's National 5 Course assignment against the Assessment Standards of the National 4 Added Value Unit and, if met, this would provide appropriate evidence to result the Unit.

However there are important points to note:

- ◆ There is no threshold mark in the National 5 Course assignment that equates to a National 4 Added Value Unit pass.
- ◆ Where the National 4 Added Value Unit Assessment Standards are not being met by the National 5 Course assignment evidence, the centre will have to provide an alternative assessment to meet this need.

## **Do candidates need to keep a record of progress for the Course assignments?**

There are marks awarded for relevant entries in the record of progress in the Course Assignments at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. If a candidate does not include a record of progress, they will not be able to achieve a significant proportion of the allocated marks. It is therefore strongly advised that a record of progress is included.

Please refer to the guidance document, available from the Engineering Science webpage 'General Assessment information for National 5 Engineering Science', for further guidance.

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