



Common questions about Graphic Communication

The National 5 assignment changes each year, what happens if candidates do the wrong one?

This shouldn't happen as the assignment is only available on our secure website and it clearly shows which session it is valid for. However, if the current assignment is not undertaken then no marks can be awarded.

Can a candidate's National 5 assignment work be reviewed or provisionally marked?

No. Once complete or when the 8-hour time limit has passed, the assignment must be prepared for submission to SQA for external assessment.

Does an estimate grade need to be produced?

Yes. Not only is it a condition of offering the qualification, it is a necessity for candidates who may need to make use of our [exceptional circumstances provision](#).

The National 5 assignment has a time limit of 8 hours, what happens if a candidate doesn't finish in this time?

Much like a question paper, the assignment now has a fixed duration. If a candidate does not finish in the available time, the work that has been completed will be submitted to SQA and a mark will be awarded. No additional time is available.

Can the class discuss the National 5 assignment as a group before they begin?

No. No group activity is permitted in the assignment and it must be conducted under a high degree of supervision to ensure that each candidate produces a response to the assignment on their own.

Can the assignment simply be printed out and handed to the candidates to undertake?

No. The assignment will include instructions for teachers, lecturers and candidates. These may vary each year but they will include an introduction to the assignment and information on preparing candidates before they begin.

Can the content of the assignment be discussed on forums or secure groups?

No. The assignment is a secure course assessment (the mark contributes to the overall grade for the candidate). It is available on our secure website and cannot be shared or discussed on other forums, including social media, which are not secure.

Is it possible to deliver some content, have the candidate undertake part of the assignment, deliver more content and then have the candidate complete the assignment?

No. The assignment is to be undertaken after all the course content has been delivered and it cannot be interrupted by periods of learning and teaching.

As the National 5 assignment has to be undertaken in 8 hours, does this mean that the candidates have to do this for a full day?

No, there is no requirement for this. However, it would need to be undertaken in consecutive periods of subject time.

For example:

Graphic Communication is on period one on Monday, period three on Wednesday and period five on Friday. The candidate would begin on Monday and then stop to attend their other classes. The candidate would then resume on Wednesday, stopping again, before starting again on Friday.

The teacher or lecturer must ensure that the candidate's work (and the assignment) remain secure between class periods and throughout its undertaking.

The National 5 assignment is to be undertaken under a high degree of supervision and control, does this mean that we need invigilators?

No. Teacher or lecturer supervision, as defined in our course documentation and in the assignment instructions, is all that is needed. The guidance on conditions of assessment for the coursework document can be found on the [National 5 Graphic Communication web page](#).

If units are delivered, rather than the course, how long does evidence of assessment need to be retained for?

This timescale is unchanged — unit evidence must be retained until the end of the academic session in which the assessment decisions were made.

Can the coursework mark from last session be used for a resit candidate?

No. The assignment is now annually issued and is only valid for the current academic session. A resit candidate will have to undertake the assignment relative to the session that they are sitting the question paper.

If there is a two-year delivery, when are candidates given the assignment?

The assignment given to the candidates must be the one from the same academic session as the question paper that they will be sitting. Additionally, the assignment cannot be undertaken by candidates until all content has been delivered (so it couldn't be undertaken part-way through the first year of a two-year delivery).

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