



Common questions about National 3, National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Physical Education

Performance Skills Unit

What are the assessment conditions for the *Performance Skills Unit*?

The assessment conditions for the *Performance Skills Unit* can be found in the Unit assessment support packs for each level. These documents are available from SQA's secure website and can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator via the following link: secure.sqa.org.uk/login.html

How many physical activities does a candidate have to provide evidence for in the National 5 and Higher *Performance Skills Unit*?

While the context for learning can be provided by a range of physical activities, candidates must provide evidence for assessment from **two** activities. All Assessment Standards must be met for **each** of these physical activities (ie activity 1 and activity 2).

How many physical activities does a candidate have to provide evidence for in the Advanced Higher *Performance Skills Unit*?

While the context for learning can be provided by a range of physical activities, candidates must provide evidence for assessment from **one** activity. All Assessment Standards must be met for this physical activity.

What are the re-assessment conditions for the *Performance Skills Unit*?

Information on re-assessment arrangements for the *Performance Skills Unit* can be found in the Unit assessment support packs for each level. These documents are available from SQA's secure website and can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator via the following link: secure.sqa.org.uk/login.html

How is the *Performance Skills Unit* verified?

Team leaders (visiting verifiers) will visit centres and observe a sample of candidates performing live in an agreed activity. The performance will be judged by both the assessor and the team leader, with the results being compared. We are verifying the ability of assessors to make valid assessment judgements against the Assessment Standards. Further information on the Quality

Assurance Models, sample size etc is available on the Quality Assurance section of SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/74668.6220.html

Factors Impacting on Performance Unit

What are the assessment conditions for the *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit*?

The assessment conditions for the *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit* can be found in the Unit assessment support packs for each level. These documents are available from SQA's secure website and can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator via the following link: secure.sqa.org.uk/login.html

How many physical activities does a candidate have to provide evidence for in the *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit*?

While the context for learning can be provided by a range of physical activities, candidates must provide evidence for assessment from a minimum of **one** physical activity.

Do candidates have to achieve all Assessment Standards in each Outcome for the *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit*?

Yes. All Assessment Standards must be met in order to pass this Unit.

Must candidates use the workbook provided in the *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit* assessment support packs (National 3 to National 5)?

No. The workbook provided in the Unit assessment support packs is for staff and students to use if they wish — it is one possible way of gathering and presenting Unit evidence and is **not** a mandatory document.

Do the Higher and Advanced Higher Unit assessment support packs for the *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit* contain a workbook example?

No. The Higher and Advanced Higher Unit assessment support packs **do not** contain any workbook examples. Centres should gather and present information in a form that is most suitable for their candidates.

In Assessment Standard 1.1 of the National 5 and Higher *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit*, can a candidate use two different methods within the same factor?

National 5 candidates must provide a detailed explanation of why the **two different** recognised methods would be useful in identifying **two different** factors impacting on performance.

Higher candidates must provide a detailed analysis of what it is that makes the **two different** recognised methods, from **two different** factors, reliable/valid.

For example, candidates may choose two of the following:

- ◆ questionnaire (social factor)
- ◆ observation schedule (physical factor)
- ◆ personal reflection diary (emotional factor)

In Assessment Standard 1.2 of the National 5 and Higher *Factors Impacting on Performance* Unit, do the factors need to be different?

National 5

Yes. Candidates must provide a detailed explanation of the impact of **two different** factors, one positive and one negative factor (from mental, emotional, social or physical), on performance. For example, candidates could explain why feeling confident (emotional factor) and poor muscular endurance (physical factor) had an impact on performance.

Higher

Yes. Candidates must provide a detailed evaluation of the positive and negative impact of **two different** factors (from mental, emotional, social or physical) on performance. For example, candidates could evaluate the positive impact of feeling confident (emotional factor) and the negative impact of anger on performance, plus the evaluation of a positive and negative impact of a different factor.

Can the approaches used in Assessment Standard 1.3 of the National 5 *Factors Impacting on Performance* Unit, come from different factors?

Yes, or they can come from the same factor. For example, any two from:

- ◆ visualisation (mental factor)
- ◆ positive self-talk (mental factor)
- ◆ building self-esteem (social factor)
- ◆ conditioned games (physical factor)

Where can I find examples of the four factors (mental, emotional, social and physical)?

In the Physical Education Courses there are four factors (mental, emotional, social, and physical) which may impact on the performance of physical activities. A document containing examples of the four factors is available from the Physical Education subject page, and can be accessed via the following link: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45741.html (in the box headed 'Related Information').

What are the re-assessment conditions for the *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit*?

Information on re-assessment arrangements for the *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit* can be found in the Unit assessment support packs for each level. These documents are available from SQA's secure website and can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator via the following link: secure.sqa.org.uk/login.html

How is the *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit* verified?

The *Factors Impacting on Performance Unit* is portable. If a centre is selected for verification, evidence should be sent to SQA to be verified during verification events. Further information on the quality assurance models, sample size, etc, is available via the following link: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/74668.6220.html

Course assessment

Performance (National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher)

What are the assessment conditions for the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher performance Coursework?

The assessment conditions for the performance Coursework can be found in the *General Assessment Information (Performance)* document and are available from the Physical Education subject pages — and can be accessed via the following links:

National 5 PE subject page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47399.html

Higher PE subject page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47901.html

Advanced Higher PE subject page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48452.html

These documents must be read in conjunction with the performance assessment task for each level. These documents are available from SQA's secure website and can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator via the following link: secure.sqa.org.uk/login.html

Where can I find the performance Coursework Marking Instructions for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher?

Marking Instructions for the performance Component for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher can be found in the performance assessment task for each level. These documents are available from SQA's secure website and can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator via the following link: secure.sqa.org.uk/login.html.

Can a candidate be given a Course assessment performance mark for more than one activity and their best score submitted?

No. The performance for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Course Assessment is a **single** performance event. The context of the performance must be challenging, competitive and/or demanding. Therefore evidence cannot be gathered over a series of different performance events.

The performance has to be of sufficient length to allow candidates to demonstrate the required skills, so in most cases this would be whatever the norm is for the activity. For example, in some activities this would be a set period of play. In others, such as field events, it would be the number of attempts normally given, with decisions being taken and acted on between attempts and still within the duration of the performance.

Do candidates have to complete the planning and preparation, and evaluation sections of the performance Coursework in writing?

No. Candidates may provide evidence for these sections in a range of ways. This could include written evidence, such as a short report or the worksheets provided, or oral evidence such as a talk or presentation. A centre must be able to provide evidence of how marks were awarded to a candidate.

Do candidates have to complete the planning and preparation, and evaluation sections of the performance Coursework in relation to their single performance event?

Yes. The candidate must make their response personal, relate the planning to the upcoming single performance event and, after the performance, complete an evaluation of that performance.

What happens if a candidate does not attend their single performance event for reasons beyond their control, or if candidates are injured during their single performance event?

Guidance has been produced for centres that have entered candidates for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Physical Education. It outlines what centres should do if candidates do not attend their single performance event for reasons beyond their control, or if candidates are injured during their single performance event.

It is **not** for candidates who believe they have under-performed on the day.

This document is available on the subject pages and can be accessed via the following links (under 'Coursework information' tab):

National 5 PE subject page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47399.html

Higher PE subject page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47901.html

Advanced Higher PE subject page: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/48452.html

What is the submission date for the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Course assessment performance mark?

The submission date for the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher performance mark can be found in the *NQ SQA Co-ordinators Guide*, which is available from your SQA Co-ordinator.

How is the performance Coursework verified?

The National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Performance component is non-portable, therefore team leaders (visiting verifiers) will visit centres to carry out the verification process. The team leader will observe candidates performing live, and verify the centre's ability to assess to standard. They will also check other candidates' marked and graded plan and evaluation evidence, along with annotated checklists and any other evidence of the assessment of their performance. Further information on the new quality assurance models, sample size, etc, is available via the following link: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/74668.6220.html.

Course assessment — National 5 Portfolio

Does the portfolio have to be completed under supervision?

We anticipate that the portfolio will be completed on an ongoing basis. It will require evidence gathered over a period of time to support candidate responses and is not intended to be approached as an exam-type exercise. Further information on the assessment conditions can be found in the *General Assessment Information (Portfolio)* document and is available from SQA's website via the following link: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47399.html under Coursework information.

Must candidates use SQA's template for the portfolio?

Yes. Candidates **must** use SQA's portfolio template. This document is available from SQA's secure website and can be accessed by your SQA Co-ordinator via the following link: secure.sqa.org.uk/login.html. Please ensure that the most recent template is used.

How many factors should candidates select in Question 1(a)?

Candidates **must** select two factors from; mental, emotional, social or physical.

Each factor must be different, eg the candidate could choose explain the impact of physical and social factors.

For each of these factors it is acceptable for the candidate to explain the impact of a different example for each activity. For example:

Factor 1: Physical — the candidate could explain CRE for one activity and speed for the other.

Factor 2: Social — the candidate could explain communication for one activity and co-operation for the other.

Must candidates select a new factor in Questions 3(d) and 3(e)?

Yes. This must be different from the factors selected in question 1(a). For example, if a candidate has selected physical and social factors in 1(a), they must choose from mental or emotional in question 3 (d) & (e).

Must candidates attach their method of data collection and their programme of work?

Yes. Candidates should attach a method of data collection and a programme of work, as they are mandatory pieces of evidence for this assessment.

Should the portfolio be marked before it is sent to SQA?

In order to allow accurate estimates to be submitted, centres should keep a record of the marks which they judge their candidates will be awarded. No marks, or feedback to candidates, should be entered on the portfolio template.

When is the uplift date for the National 5 portfolio?

The completed portfolio must be printed off, or photocopied, and submitted to SQA for marking by the uplift date.

Uplift dates can be found in the *NQ SQA Co-ordinators Guide*, which is available from your SQA Co-ordinator.

Course assessment — Higher Question Paper

Where can I find definitions of the command words used?

You can find definitions of each command word on page 2 of the Marking Instructions for Higher PE question papers. The Marking Instructions can be found under the [‘Past Papers and Marking Instructions’](#) heading on the subject page.

How many factors should candidates answer on in section 2?

In section 2 of the paper, candidates must answer on **two factors** to be able to access the full range of marks available.

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