

Dance

The Qualifications Team

Alastair Brown

Qualifications Manager

Marion Weir

Qualifications Officer

Nicola Anderson

Subject Implementation Manager

Changes to assessment at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher

As announced by the Deputy First Minister in September 2016, units and unit assessments are being removed from National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses on a phased basis over three years:

- National 5 from 2017–18
- Higher from 2018–19
- Advanced Higher from 2019–20

For more information, including a Q&A on the implications of these changes, please visit our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges

Please note: Dance is not available at Advanced Higher level

Units that were previously part of National 5 courses

The units that were previously part of National 5 courses are now freestanding units at SCQF level 5. They can no longer be used to contribute to the achievement of a National 5 course.

We will remove all references to National 5 courses from the unit specifications, unit support notes and unit assessment support packs in due course, and the unit support notes will be added to the unit specifications as an appendix. The unit specifications will also be relocated to a new freestanding units web page for each subject.

Further information on the timescales for this will be provided in our weekly Centre News newsletter.

Changes to assessment in National 5

The National 5 Dance course has introduced a new question paper component.

The new question paper will assess the knowledge and understanding that was previously assessed in the units.

Candidates are now assessed through the following three components:

Component	Marks	Scaled mark
Question paper	30 marks	20
Practical activity	65 marks	45
Performance	35 marks	35

An example of how marks will be calculated once scaled will be provided in the common questions document for Dance. This is to support with centre estimates. All scaling for externally assessed components will be completed by SQA.

Changes to assessment in Higher courses from session 2018–19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from Higher courses from session 2018–19 and we have started our review of the Higher course assessments. For this, we are working closely with our National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs) for each subject. Our NQSTs include teachers and lecturers who currently deliver National Courses, and representatives of professional associations. We will also meet with a sample of teachers to gauge their views on the proposed changes and the implications of these.

The publication of new and revised Higher materials will follow a similar timescale to National 5:

End of April 2018	Revised Higher course specifications
End of May to end of September 2018	Course support notes New/revised specimen question papers New/revised coursework assessment tasks

We will provide further information on what the changes to assessment are for each subject by the end of January 2018.

Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that the specified assessment conditions for coursework are consistently applied in all centres. The following documents detail the specific conditions that must be followed in each assessment:

- course specification
- course assessment specification (Higher only)
- coursework assessment task

In addition to these documents, you must also refer to the following document, which is available from the coursework section of the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher web pages:

- [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#)

This document provides important information on the time and volume of assessment, the use of resources, and the supervision, control and authentication of assessment — including examples.

Changes to documents

New and revised National 5 documents and assessment support materials

Following the removal of units and unit assessments from the National 5 Dance course, we have strengthened the course assessment to ensure it assesses the full content of the course.

We have published the revised course specification and new and revised assessment support materials for the National 5 course, which detail the requirements of the revised course assessments from session 2017–18 onwards. The documents are available from the National 5 subject web pages at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects. Further information on the changes to documents and assessment support materials is provided below.

Course specification

In April 2017, we published a revised course specification which provided detailed information about the National 5 course and course assessment, including the conditions of assessment that must be followed. The revised document was produced by merging the previous course specifications, course assessment specifications and general assessment information into a single, streamlined document. Course support notes have been added to the course specification as an appendix.

The National 5 Dance course specification is available on the [National 5 Dance web page](#).

Specimen question paper

A specimen question paper has been published for this new component and is available from the [National 5 Dance web page](#).

Coursework assessment tasks

We have published coursework assessment task documents for the National 5 Dance practical activity and performance components.

The coursework assessment task document for the practical activity component is available from the [National 5 Dance web page](#).

The coursework assessment task document for the performance component is available from the [National 5 Dance web page](#).

Supportive resources

National 5 audio presentation

We have published an audio presentation that focuses on the requirements of the revised National 5 course assessment.

You can access the audio presentation from the **CPD webinar/audio and support** tab on the [National 5 Dance web page](#).

National 5 course event

An Understanding Standards event took place for National 5 Dance on 4 October 2017. Candidate evidence for the question paper component, along with commentaries explaining the marks awarded, which were exemplified at these events, are available on the SQA [Understanding Standards website](#).

Candidate evidence and commentaries for the practical activity and performance components are available on our secure site.

Understanding Standards materials

Additional candidate evidence, along with commentaries explaining the marks awarded, are available for the following levels and components on our secure site.

National 5 Dance	Practical activity
National 5 Dance	Performance
Higher Dance	Practical activity
Higher Dance	Performance

Common questions

The common questions documents for Dance will be updated and republished in November 2017. This document will be available from the [Dance subject page](#).

Centre News will inform centres of the publication date for this document.

Course reports

We strongly recommend that you read the annual course reports for the subject and levels you are teaching. These reports are produced following the annual diet of exams and are published by the end of October. The reports provide informed and valuable commentary on the assessment for each component in the course, and include a summary of:

- candidate performance in the course assessment
- areas in which candidates performed well
- areas which candidates found demanding

The reports also contain advice on preparing future candidates, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course Reports will be available from the relevant subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects

Further information and guidance

2018 Dance external assessment timetable and year planner

February to April 2018	The visiting assessment period for National 5 and Higher Dance will run from 12 February 2018 to 27 April 2018 .
May 2018	Thursday 31 May 2018 (morning) Question paper examination for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National 5 Dance

Exceptional Circumstances

The Exceptional Circumstances Consideration Service supports candidates who have been unable to attend an exam, or whose performance in the exam may have been affected by an incident beyond their control. This service is available for all exams that appear in the exam timetable.

Centres should note SQA's National 5 Dance specimen question paper cannot be accepted if it is the only evidence submitted. This paper and associated marking instructions are in the public domain and can be accessed by candidates. The specimen question paper could form part of the evidence compiled by the centre for the candidate, however additional alternative evidence would also need to be submitted.

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Contact us

Please contact our Customer Support Team:

Tel: 0303 333 0330

Fax: 0345 213 5000

E-mail: mycentre@sqa.org.uk
