



# Questions & Answers

## Changes to assessment in National 5 Design and Manufacture

### 1 General questions about the changes

#### **Is this likely to be the last major change to National 5 Design and Manufacture?**

The changes to assessment follow the announcement by the Deputy First Minister in September 2016 that units are being removed from National 5 courses. At present, we do not anticipate any further changes to the National 5 course beyond session 2017–18.

#### **What will happen to the units once they are removed from the course?**

The units will remain available as free-standing units at SCQF level 5. They will no longer contribute to the National 5 Design and Manufacture course. Candidates can be presented for the free-standing units as an alternative to National 5 courses. It is for the school or college to decide which qualifications each candidate is entered for and they must ensure they are entered at the most appropriate level. The Scottish Government has published [policy guidance on this for schools and local authorities](#).

#### **If candidates are only being presented for units, will the threshold for the number of assessment standards remain the same?**

Yes. The threshold applied to the number of assessment standards that candidates must meet to achieve each unit will remain the same as it is at present.

### 2 Question paper

#### **When will the revised specimen question paper be published?**

The revised specimen question paper was published at the beginning of August 2017.

#### **Will the terms stated in the course specification document, (eg questionnaire, user trip) limit what will be assessed in the question paper on that particular topic?**

Specific questions will only be directed at topics listed in the course specification, eg candidates may be asked to describe stages of carrying out a user trip.

However, more generic questions will allow candidates to apply knowledge and understanding of other research techniques with which they are familiar, eg if candidates are

asked to describe how they have gathered information in a research task. Any valid technique would attract marks.

This applies to all topics within the course specification. Specific questions will only be asked on the topics listed but where appropriate, candidates will be able to apply knowledge and understanding on topics from outwith the list.

### **How does the question paper relate to candidates' own design work?**

The context of some questions will now focus on examples of candidates' design work and extracts from candidates' folios: this should make questions relevant and accessible to all National 5 candidates.

## **3 Coursework: assignment**

### **What changes are being made to the assignment?**

The assignment has been extended and split into two components: 'assignment — design' and 'assignment — practical'. Candidates are required to manufacture what they have designed, so the same assessment task covers both components.

### **When will the assignments be available?**

Assignments will be published annually at the end of November on SQA's secure website. There will be a choice of three assignment briefs each year.

A specimen assignment has produced and it is published on SQA's website. It contains instructions for teachers and lecturers, marking instructions and instructions for candidates for the assessment task.

### **What is the maximum number of sheets that can be submitted for the 'assignment — design'?**

Candidates work must be submitted on a maximum of seven A3 sheets (or equivalent), this includes the *research pro forma* and the *planning for manufacture pro forma*.

### **How much time should candidates spend on the 'assignment — design' and the 'assignment — practical'?**

There is no set time limit. Candidates generate evidence of their design skills by responding to a given brief. This evidence is produced over an extended period of time, allowing candidates to develop and refine their work before it is presented for assessment.

### **Will the pro formas be sent out to centres or will they have to be printed?**

Centres will need to print the *research pro forma* and the *planning for manufacture pro forma*. These will be published annually on SQA's secure web page, alongside the assignment.

**Will candidates be allowed to use both sides of the page for each pro forma ?**

All sheets submitted must be single-sided, except the '*research pro forma*' which may be double-sided.

**Is SQA considering having a pro forma for the evaluation page?**

No. It is appropriate that candidates have flexibility in their approach to evaluation.

**Will SQA provide any guidance on the materials required to complete the 'assignment — practical'?**

No. There are no specific materials required to complete the practical part of the assignment. The development of the 'assignment — design' should be based around resources available to centres.

**Can candidates use CAD/CAM for modelling and will they achieve marks for this?**

The skill being assessed is 'using modelling techniques', therefore any suitable method of manufacturing models will attract marks, as long as the models are used to develop the design proposal. It should be noted that the use of CAM in producing the proposal will not attract marks in the 'assignment — practical'.

**Can candidates use the evaluation of their crafted proposal as evidence for modelling?**

No. The modelling marks are awarded for candidates' ability to use modelling techniques effectively to develop their design proposal.

**How can candidates get credit for naturally-occurring evidence of using the proposal when their evaluations are retained in centres?**

The proposal cannot be used to generate evidence for modelling. Marks are awarded for candidates' ability to use modelling techniques effectively to develop their design proposal.

**Will candidates be marked down if they don't have an orthographic but have an exploded view to help with planning for manufacture?**

There is no requirement to provide an orthographic for planning for manufacture. Candidates have to provide a drawing or sketch that clearly communicates sizes and any other appropriate information required for the manufacture of their design proposal.

**How can SQA verify measuring and marking out when the plan for manufacture is sent off with the 'assignment — design'?**

Teachers and lecturers must confirm that the design proposal can be manufactured safely and independently in a school or college workshop environment. The teacher or lecturer should review the detail on the candidate's *planning for manufacture pro forma* and, following discussion, the candidate must mark up in a different colour the changes required to allow manufacture. This marked-up copy must be retained for verification purposes.

**Do we still need to retain evidence for the 'assignment — practical'?**

Yes. Centres must retain evidence for this assessment for SQA quality assurance purposes.

**Will verifiers bring along copies of the ‘assignment — design’ pro formas to match up with the ‘assignment – practical’?**

No. Visiting verifiers will not bring copies. Centres must retain a copy of the *planning for manufacture pro forma* as explained above.

**When is the submission date for sending in the ‘assignment — design’?**

The submission date for the ‘assignment — design’ is April 2018. Centres will be reminded of this in due course.

**When will exemplar assignments be published?**

Exemplar assignments will be published by the end of November 2017.

**Will centres receive a breakdown of marks for the assignments to show where candidates have gained marks?**

No. Centres will receive component marks for each candidate but no further break down will be provided.