

## Design and Manufacture

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## 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges)

### 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.

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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 Design and Manufacture course is now assessed through the following components:

Component	Marks
Question paper	80
Assignment — design	55
Assignment — practical	45

## Clarification of course content in the National 5 course

Course content has been streamlined and rearranged in a table to show the links between the course assignment and question paper. You can find this table in the course specification document under the Course Specification tab on the [National 5 Design and Manufacture web page](#).

## 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 and Advanced 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.

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# 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 Design and Manufacture course, we have strengthened the course assessment to ensure it assesses the full content of the course.

We have published revised course specifications 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](http://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 course specification is available on the [National 5 Design and Manufacture web page](#).

### Specimen question paper

We published a revised specimen question paper at the beginning of August 2017. There has been an increase of marks from 60 to 80. The question paper has two sections.

- Section 1 has 60 marks. This section assesses design and workshop-based manufacture and consists of six or seven questions. Question 1 has 30 marks. It assesses a range of materials, hand tools and machinery and is based on a workshop-crafted product. This question follows a similar format each year and requires reasoned responses to practical manufacturing tasks. The remaining questions are worth 30 marks and assess design as specified in the 'Skills, knowledge and understanding for the course' table. The context of the questions is design work and products that focus on particular aspects of design.
- Section 2 has 20 marks. This section assesses commercial manufacture and consists of four or five questions. The first question in this section assesses materials and commercial manufacturing processes. This question follows a similar format each year. Candidates identify, select and justify suitable materials and processes for the commercial manufacture of existing products. The remaining questions assess the impact of commercial manufacture on society and the environment and other aspects of commercial manufacture, as specified in the 'Skills, knowledge and understanding for the course' table.

This document can be found on the [National 5 Design and Manufacture web page](#) under the Specimen Question Paper tab.

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## Coursework assessment task

Assignments will be published annually at the end of November on our secure website. The course assignment has been extended and split into two components: 'assignment — design' and 'assignment — practical'. There will be a choice of three assignment briefs each year. The assignment — design component will be marked externally by SQA. The 'assignment — practical' will be marked internally by centres and verified by SQA.

We have produced a specimen assignment and it is available on the [National 5 Design and Manufacture web page](#) under the coursework tab. It contains instructions for teachers and lecturers, marking instructions, and instructions for candidates for the assessment task.

## Supportive resources

### National 5 CPD webinar

To help teachers and lecturers prepare for the changes to assessment in the National 5 course, we ran a series of subject-specific continuing professional development (CPD) webinars that focused on the requirements of the course assessment.

The webinar provided an overview of the revised course assessment for National 5, with detailed information on the question paper and the coursework components.

Recordings of these webinars are available to view online via our website and can be accessed from the **CPD webinar/audio and support** tab on the [National 5 Design and Manufacture web page](#).

### National 5 course events

We are hosting a series of subject-specific events that focus on the changes to assessment in National 5 courses. The events are running until January 2018 and provide delegates with the opportunity to participate in workshops and discuss the course documents, as well as have their questions answered by senior examining team members.

To view the event schedule and book your place, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/ngevents](http://www.sqa.org.uk/ngevents)

### Q&A document on the changes to assessment

During the question and answer section of the National 5 webinar, we received a number of questions about the changes to assessment. We have published a Q&A document that provides answers to the questions asked during the webinar, as well as some of the most frequently asked questions we have received from teachers and lecturers.

View the Q&A on the changes to assessment on the [National 5 Design and Manufacture web page](#).

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## Further information and guidance

### 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. You can access the course reports by going to the web page for each level via the [Design and Manufacture subject web page](#).

## Stay informed

### Subscribe to Centre News

Our weekly Centre News newsletter contains the latest news and updates for centres delivering SQA qualifications. The newsletter is sent to your SQA co-ordinator and you can also subscribe directly at <http://mailer.sqa.org.uk/centrenews/step1>

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