

Media

The Qualifications Team

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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

Note: there is no Advanced Higher course for Media.

For more information, including a Q&A on the implications of these changes, please visit our website at 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.

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 Media course is now assessed through the following components:

Component	Marks
question paper	60
assignment	60

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 and Advanced Higher only)
 - coursework assessment task
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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

Revised National 5 documents and assessment support materials

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

We have published a revised course specification 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 provides 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 Media course specification is available on the [National 5 Media subject page](#).

Specimen question paper

The National 5 question paper has been extended to allow for further sampling of the key aspects. This is in the form of a new section — Analysis of a media text. Candidates will choose one unseen media print text from a choice of three (film poster, magazine cover and advertisement) and respond to the question. While the examples of print texts will change every year, the question will remain unchanged.

The question paper is now structured as follows:

- Section 1 — Analysis of media content in context (50 marks)
- Section 2 — Analysis of a media text (10 marks)

The time allocated to the question paper is now 2 hours (previously 1 hour and 30 minutes).

The National 5 Media specimen question paper is available on the [National 5 Media subject page](#).

Coursework assessment task

The assignment now has an evaluative element which is worth 10 marks. For each of the five examples in the Development section, candidates must now also evaluate the finished content. Two marks are available for the evaluation of each example. Previously, the skill of evaluation was assessed in the Creating Media Content unit.

The assignment is now structured as follows:

- Section 1 — Planning (25 marks)
- Section 2 — Development (previously 25 marks, now 35 marks)

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 National 5 webinar provides a detailed overview of the revised course assessment for this subject, including details of the new section of the question paper (Section 2 — Analysis of a media text), and the new evaluation element in the development section of the assignment. The webinar also includes discussion of student exemplification of the new assessment tasks.

A recording of the webinar is available to view online via our website and can be accessed from the **CPD webinar/audio and support** tab on the [National 5 Media web page](#).

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.

You can access the Q&A document from the [National 5 Media web page](#).

Candidate exemplification

Exemplification of candidate responses to Section 2 — Analysis of a media text, as well as the evaluation element in the assignment, will be available along with commentaries on the Understanding Standards web page.

Subject Implementation Manager

Matthew Smith has joined our team as Subject Implementation Manager and is available to provide support visits to centres. Please get in touch if you would like to arrange a visit or require subject specific advice.

Ushare resources

A number of useful links to media-related resources have been posted on Ushare which can be found under the **Resources** tab on the National 5 and Higher Media [subject web pages](#). If you have found any useful links and would like to share them with fellow media practitioners please make use of this facility.

Understanding Standards events

We are running two Understanding Standards events for Higher Media. These events will provide delegates with the opportunity to participate in workshops covering both the question paper and assignment, discuss the course arrangements, as well as have their questions answered by senior examining team members.

The events will take place on:

- 11 November 2017 — Dundee
- 17 November 2017 — Glasgow

To view the event schedule and book your place, visit www.sqa.org.uk/ngevents

All materials presented at the events will be published on the [Understanding Standards](#) web page.

Further information and guidance

Marker recruitment opportunities for 2018

We are now accepting marker applications from teaching professionals to contribute to the 2018 exam diet. If you are interested in joining us as a marker for question paper and/or assignment, please visit the [appointee opportunities](#) section of our website where you will find a marker advert for all subjects and levels, with details of the role.

Becoming a marker helps to increase your awareness of the demands of course assessment and provides excellent professional and personal development. Please check www.sqa.org.uk/appointees regularly for other appointee opportunities which may be of interest to you.

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