

## Modern Languages

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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

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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 Modern Languages course is now assessed through the following components:

Component	Marks	Scaled mark
Component 1: question paper 1 Reading	30	30
Component 2: question paper 1 Writing	20	15
Component 3: question paper 2 Listening	20	30
Component 4: Assignment–writing	20	15
Component 5: Performance–talking	30	30

## 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:

<b>End of April 2018</b>	Revised Higher course specifications
<b>End of May to end of September 2018</b>	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.

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## 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.

## 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 Modern Languages 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(s), 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 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 specification, course assessment specification 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 Modern Languages course specification is available on the [National 5 Modern Languages web page](#).

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## **Coursework assessment task(s)**

We have created a new assignment–writing assessment task. It contains an example of a writing improvement code, with exemplars in French and Spanish indicating how this code may be applied. The document contains a range of suggested writing stimuli or scenarios covering the contexts of society, learning and culture, and also includes instructions for candidates.

We have reviewed the existing performance–talking assessment task. Marking instructions have been removed and are now available in the National 5 Modern Languages Course Specification. We have also updated the recording documentation in order to include reference to additional mandatory contexts. The document also contains revised Instructions for candidates.

Both coursework assessment tasks can be downloaded from the ‘Coursework’ tab at the [National 5 Modern Languages web page](#).

## **Supportive resources**

### **National 5 CPD webinars**

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

The Modern Languages webinars focused in particular on the requirements and delivery of the new assignment–writing and the revised performance–talking assessment tasks.

A recording of one of these webinars is available to view online via our website and can be accessed from the ‘CPD webinar/audio and support’ tab, under resources on the [National 5 Modern Languages web page](#).

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

During the question and answer section of the National 5 webinars, 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 in the National 5 course on the ‘Changes to assessment: Questions and Answers’ tab, under ‘Updates and announcements at the [National 5 Modern Languages web page](#).

### **Candidate evidence and commentary materials.**

We have published exemplars of assignment–writing in June 2017, which are available from [www.understandingstandards.org.uk](http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk).

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**Eight** exemplars (2 French, 4 German, 2 Spanish) and their associated commentary, marked out of 20 against the marking instructions for assignment–writing, are currently available in a single document. This document is accessed by selecting either French, German or Spanish from the subject box on our Understanding Standards page, then ‘National 5’, followed by ‘assignment–writing’.

Exemplars in other languages will be available after the first Diet of the new and revised National 5 Modern Languages course (autumn 2018).

Exemplars of performance–talking at National 5 are available from the Understanding Standards section of our secure website. The exemplars, published in September 2017, demonstrate coverage of two different contexts in the presentation and conversation sections respectively.

## Further information and guidance

### National 5 coursework assignment–writing booklet

Candidates are required to submit the assignment–writing in an answer booklet which will be issued by SQA to centres as stationery on 1 November 2017. A Word and PDF version of the booklet will be available in the ‘Coursework’ tab of the [National 5 Modern Languages web page](#). The Word version is for candidates who wish to complete the assignment–writing electronically, and the PDF version allows centres to print additional booklets if required. **Please note that for Chinese languages – Cantonese, Mandarin (Simplified), Mandarin (Traditional) – a PDF version only will be available.**

Colleagues should note that booklets will be available for each National 5 Modern Languages course (Cantonese, French, Gaelic (Learners), German, Italian, Mandarin Simplified, Mandarin Traditional, Spanish, Urdu), and it is important to use the specified booklet.

If candidates complete the assignment–writing electronically using the Word versions of the booklet(s), it is essential that each booklet is printed double-sided to constitute a submission.

Please note that the submission date for the assignment–writing is Wednesday 21 March 2018.

### Information on National 5 marks scaling

The following components of National 5 Modern Languages courses will include marks scaling:

- writing
- listening
- assignment–writing

The purpose of scaling at National 5 is to ensure that each skill has equal weighting. In order to assist centres, we have created the scaling grids below for each of the scaled components.

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## Writing

Pegged mark	Scaled mark
20	15
16	12
12	9
8	6
4	3
0	0

## Listening

Raw mark	Scaled mark
20	30
19	29
18	27
17	26
16	24
15	23
14	21
13	20
12	18
11	17
10	15
9	14
8	12
7	11
6	9
5	8
4	6
3	5
2	3
1	2
0	0

## Assignment-writing

Pegged mark	Scaled mark
20	15
16	12
12	9
8	6
4	3
0	0

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## 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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