

Modern Languages Webinar of 11th November 2016: Question and Answers

Assessment of Talking – National 5 and Higher

Where can I find the updated marking instructions for the course talking assessments at National 5 and Higher?

These are on the main SQA Modern Languages web page

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/45669.html>

– from there, you select the qualification, then under the banner ‘Coursework Information’ the document General Assessment Information should appear (for the qualification selected). To go directly to these documents, you can use the links:

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GAInfoHigherModernLanguages.pdf

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/GAInfoNational5ModernLanguages.pdf

You can also access the Coursework Assessment Task document on SQA secure as it contains a copy of the candidate assessment record and an appendix for candidates. It also contains the same marking information for the talking performances (but not the assessment overview and conditions).

Where can I find the key messages reports with feedback and advice on the talking performance?

These can be found under the ‘Verification and Course reports’ on either National 5 or Higher main pages for Modern Languages: banner

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47415.html> or <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47909.html>

Each language report contains the feedback on both levels of qualification.

Where can I view the most recent updates about changes to National Qualifications?

You can view the Scottish Government announcement at

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/77493.html>

How do I access examples of candidate materials for course assessment?

If you are looking for examples of writing at National 5 and Higher (exam paper writing) you can view candidate evidence on <http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk/>

You do not need a password.

If you are looking for examples of talking performances at National 5 and Higher these are to be found on <https://secure.sqa.org.uk/>

You will need a username and password – see your SQA coordinator. The candidate evidence and commentary from Principal Verifiers is under the ‘NQ’ tab and then under ‘Understanding Standards materials’ menu.

Will we be able to download the presentation used in this webinar?

Yes, you will be sent a link when this is available and you will be able to download the presentation and any other materials at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/75796.html> (or type in search engine ‘CPD webinars and materials SQA.’)

On the understanding standards website - the one that is open not secure- will there be a chance for pupils to access exemplars of talking performances like the ones for writing? Are there plans to release them at some point so that pupils could access them and peer mark them as they can for the writing assessment?

There are no plans to put candidate talking performances in the public domain.

Do you add the sustaining the conversation mark to the conversation mark to get the final mark?

Yes, you add the mark awarded for the 'conversation' and 'sustaining the conversation' to get a sub-total out of 20; then you add to this the total out of 10 for the presentation to get the total out of 30 for the whole performance.

How can you have your performances internally verified when you are the only teacher of the language in the school?

It would be wise to take your talking performances recordings to a network meeting (for example) if there is CPD time planned for internal verification. If no such network or Local Authority meeting is planned, you may share your recordings with another teacher in another local authority school but you should do this securely since this is candidate evidence and candidate confidentiality has to be taken into consideration.

If a National 5 candidate moves into another context in the conversation, are they penalised? Should we discourage this?

No, there is no penalty applied. At N5 candidates should be encouraged to move into another context if they are comfortable with this. Many centres already do this.

In the table suggested for dual purpose of the talking performance and unit talking assessment, what is the assessor's column for?

The 'comments' columns would be for the assessor to note some brief examples of what the candidate says, to describe the content/accuracy/language resource and justify the pegged mark awarded for each sub section – presentation, conversation and sustaining the conversation.

The assessor may also note why s/he considered any aspect of the performance merited being placed in one pegged mark over another, especially where the performance is uneven and touches on several pegged mark descriptors.

The box at the bottom would be for the assessor and internal verifier to note agreement/disagreement and final decision. It should be clear what the final marks awarded are after discussion if the candidate's performance was among a sample of internally verified performances.

If a candidate selected for external verification was not one sampled in the cross-marking in school, should this be done for the candidate before submitting to SQA?

Centres decide which candidates will make up the sample for external verification by SQA. The candidates in the sample should include internally verified performances.

If our school is verified what should we send to SQA?

You should submit the recordings and these should be clearly identified with the candidate's name, a candidate assessment record (or equivalent) showing the marks total for the performance and the breakdown of marks (presentation, conversation, sustaining the conversation). Evidence of internal verification should be submitted – for example evidence of cross-marking and discussion between the assessor and the internal verifier.

Where can I access the subject audio presentations?

These are available at <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/74495.html> or type in 'Audio presentations SQA' from any search engine.