



# Questions & Answers

## Changes to assessment in National 5 Engineering Science

### **Will candidates be able to use data booklets for the assignment?**

Yes. The National 5 data booklet should be made available to candidates while they are undertaking the assignment. We will include this information for the live assignments.

### **Given the range of resources required for candidates to simulate or construct solutions, will the 8-hour time limit be enough?**

The 8-hour time limit is appropriate for the revised assignment. Candidates will be familiar with anything that is to be done in the assignment as it will have been covered during normal learning and teaching time. The resources required for simulation or construction will also have been covered during normal learning and teaching time.

### **Our centre does not have enough pneumatic components for all candidates to undertake this part of the assignment at the same time — what should we do?**

If a centre has a limited number of pneumatic components and opts to use construction rather than simulation, teachers and lecturers will need to plan carefully for this. They will need to manage the class so that each candidate has the time and resources to undertake this part of the assignment on their own. One solution would be to stagger candidates' access to the components over several days. Alternatively, simulation rather than construction might be more appropriate in situations like this.

### **Can teachers and lecturers make alterations to the assignment (eg changing images)?**

No. The assignment cannot be changed in any way nor can it be presented to candidates in a different format.

### **Do candidates with additional support needs get an extra 25% of the allotted assignment time as standard?**

There is no standard assessment arrangement for candidates with additional support needs.

For candidates with additional support needs who require an assessment arrangement, centres should contact SQA's assessment arrangements team ([aarequests@sqa.org.uk](mailto:aarequests@sqa.org.uk)). They should provide details of each situation and the assessment arrangements they think are appropriate. Every request is dealt with on an individual basis.

### **Is software ‘package x’ appropriate for use as a pneumatics, electronics or structures simulation?**

We do not approve, recommend or comment on the validity of any specific software packages used in National Courses. Centres must ensure that any software package used for learning and teaching purposes meets the requirements of the course specification.

### **Simulation software can be very expensive. Can SQA suggest where it can be found more cheaply?**

It is for centres to decide the most appropriate software to use for delivering National Courses and to identify a supplier.

### **Our simulation software is web-based so we cannot operate machines without internet access — how do candidates undertake the assignment?**

The assessment conditions are stipulated in the course specification and are expanded upon in the coursework assessment task. This ensures equity for all candidates undertaking the assignment and must be adhered to.

We acknowledge that some centres may have web-based software, networks that cannot be restricted, or something similar. In such cases, we would ask that centres do the best they can — relative to their situation — to meet the assessment conditions. For example, centres may be able to limit internet access for running web-based simulation software. Where internet access cannot be restricted, teachers and lecturers must ensure that candidates are not using the internet to help them carry out their assignment.

### **We are having major problems with our simulation software and don’t have physical components to use in their place — what should we do?**

Please escalate this within your centre as a matter of urgency. The course cannot be delivered and the assignment cannot be undertaken without it.

### **Must the 8 hours for the assignment be consecutive?**

Yes, however we don’t expect candidates to complete the assignment in one 8-hour sitting. Instead, candidates must complete the assignment over eight consecutive periods of Engineering Science. These periods cannot be interrupted by any learning and teaching.

### **Can the assignment be done at lunchtimes/at the end of the school day?**

Centres are free to deliver the assignment at lunchtimes/at the end of the school day if they wish. However all assessment conditions must be met (ie supervised conditions, 8-hour limit, closed-book, etc)

### **Can you give more information on the emerging technology questions that may appear in the question paper?**

Examples of these questions are provided in the specimen question paper and the accompanying marking instructions.

### **Why is the live assignment being published at the end of January each year?**

The assignment is an end point assessment and cannot be undertaken until all the course content has been delivered. An earlier publication date is unnecessary.