



Questions & Answers

Changes to assessment in National 5 Media

1 Assignment

How much time do you recommend candidates spend on their assignment?

This will depend on the type of assignment they are creating. For example, a film trailer may take longer to make than a storyboard or poster. The key consideration should be that the assignment takes place when candidates have acquired the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to complete it confidently.

The examples on evaluation provided in the National 5 Media webinar are useful but will SQA be providing any examples of assignments that are not based on film?

Yes, we will provide other examples and these will be published on SQA's [Understanding Standards](#) website. When these are published we will advise centres in our weekly update, Centre News.

For research into internal institutional factors, can candidates talk about casting?

That would be one possible factor — it might be more relevant if candidates are doing a storyboard, as they could link it directly to budget. However, casting could still be relevant if candidates are making their own film.

If candidates mention a constraint, such as wanting to use a specific song/soundtrack or cast a celebrity, is this ok so long as they acknowledge that this would be a constraint?

This approach is acceptable. However, if candidates use a copyrighted song in their assignment, it will limit their opportunity to screen the film publicly. SQA is looking for evidence that candidates have researched institutional factors and made decisions in response to that. As long as they do this in a relevant way it will be acceptable.

2 Question Paper

Is there a list of suggested texts for Section 1 of the question paper?

There is a list in the course support notes appendix in the course specification. Please remember, these are only suggestions. You should select according to the needs of your candidates while ensuring that you cover the mandatory elements identified in the course specification.

Will the Section 2 question (Analysis of a Media Text) in the specimen paper remain the same every year but with a different magazine cover, film poster, and advertisement?

Yes, the question will remain the same but the examples of print texts will change.

Would you suggest preparing candidates for one form of print text for this question, eg just an advertisement?

Preparation for Section 2 will involve learning many techniques which are common to all three forms. However, you may prefer to focus on one form depending on the time available and the interests of your candidates.

Is there a list of terms such as font, puffs, sans-serif, tagline, etc that candidates should be able to identify?

While not mandatory, knowing and understanding form-specific terminology will help candidates with their analysis. There are lists in the course support notes that aren't exhaustive but give plenty of suggestions. These terms are specifically for the key aspect of language. Candidates can also discuss the other key aspects: categories, narrative, audience, institutions, society and representation.

Will more examples of candidates' work covering Analysis of a Media Text be made available online?

Yes, more examples of candidates' work will be published on SQA's [Understanding Standards](#) website over the coming months.

Will context for the three texts be given ? Candidates may not know who certain individuals are and this could have an impact on their analysis. For example, in the specimen question paper, the image of Meghan Markle on the magazine cover has text and colour that links to wider knowledge (relationship to Prince Harry) which some candidates may know but others might not.

Candidates are not required to identify individuals in order to access the full range of marks. The use of colour in this particular example also links to spring and discussing that would be perfectly valid. There is always a range of valid interpretations for cultural codes. For this reason candidates wouldn't be required to write about the link to royalty in this instance (though it would be perfectly valid for them to do so). With seven key aspects to select from, and texts specifically chosen that allow for detailed analysis, there will be plenty for candidates to write about. Candidates should be prepared to discuss how and why individuals have been represented in the text rather than focusing on who they are.