

Physical Education

The Qualifications Team

Alastair Brown

Qualifications Manager

David Purdie

Qualifications Officer

Fiona Maxwell

Subject Implementation Manager

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

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 Physical Education course is now assessed through the following components:

Component	Marks	Scaled
Portfolio	60	50
Performance	60	50

Both components now carry equal weighting.

Clarification of course content in the National 5 course

The portfolio component has been extended to include the assessment of planning and evaluation, which were previously assessed in the performance component. The knowledge of setting appropriate targets, seeking feedback from others and evaluation of the performance development process are now assessed within the portfolio.

The performance component has been extended to two single performances. The purpose of the performance component is to assess the candidate's ability to effectively perform in two different physical activities. The performance component now assesses the candidate's ability to use and apply straightforward composition, tactics or roles safely and effectively. Each single performance event is marked out of 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:

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

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 Physical Education course, we have strengthened the course assessment to ensure it assesses the full content of the course.

We have published the 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 provided 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 Physical Education course specification is available on the [National 5 Physical Education web page](#).

Coursework assessment task

The coursework assessment task document for the Portfolio component is available from the [National 5 Physical Education web page](#).

The coursework assessment task document for the Performance component is available from the [National 5 Physical Education web page](#).

The candidate portfolio template (MS Word and PDF versions) are both available from the [National 5 Physical Education web page](#).

Changes to documents following Diet 2017

Minor amendments have been made to the marking instructions in the Advanced Higher coursework project assessment task and General assessment information.

The project has four stages and the marks available have been altered slightly in 3 of the 4 stages.

Stage	Title	Mark	Change
1	Project proposal'	22	No change in mark
2	Research	26	Decrease of 2 marks
3	Performance Development Plan record	4	Decrease of 2 marks
4	Post-PDP analysis and evaluation	18	Increase of 4 marks

Supportive resources

National 5 audio presentation

We have published an audio presentation that focuses on the requirements of the revised National 5 course assessment.

You can access the audio presentation from the **CPD webinar/audio and support** tab on the [National 5 Physical Education web page](#).

Common questions about assessment for National 5 Physical Education

We are compiling a series of common questions regarding assessment for National 5 Physical Education. These will be available on the Physical Education web page in November.

Candidate evidence and commentary materials

We have published new commentary materials for the National 5 performance component:

These materials contain examples of real candidate assessment evidence and a commentary that explains why the evidence has, or has not, met the required assessment standards. You can access them from www.understandingstandards.org.uk and on the Understanding Standards section of our secure website.

Further information and guidance

Acceptable performance activities

On each subject level page there are guidance documents on the suitability of acceptable performance activities.

- Acceptable activities for assessment
- Acceptable activities for assessment research paper

These can be found on the 'Guidance on activities' tab.

In order to continue to provide opportunities for personalisation and choice for candidates and centres, assessors are encouraged to use their professional judgement when making decisions regarding acceptable activities for the performance course assessment.

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>

Sign up to MyAlerts

To receive e-mail alerts when content you are interested in has been added to, or updated, on our website, subscribe to MyAlerts at www.sqa.org.uk/myalerts

Follow us online

Twitter: [@sqanews](https://twitter.com/sqanews)

Facebook: [Scottish Qualifications Authority](https://www.facebook.com/ScottishQualificationsAuthority)

LinkedIn: [Scottish Qualifications Authority](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ScottishQualificationsAuthority)

YouTube: [SQAonline](https://www.youtube.com/SQAonline)

Contact us

Please contact our Customer Support Team:

Tel: 0303 333 0330

Fax: 0345 213 5000

E-mail: mycentre@sqa.org.uk
