

Practical Metalworking

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Changes to assessment at National 5

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 Practical Metalworking course is now assessed through the following components:

Component	Marks	Scaled marks
Question paper	60	30
Practical activity	70	70

Clarification of course content in the National 5 course

Course content has not changed and, as such, any learning and teaching resources that centres made use of in session 2016–17 are as valid today as they were then.

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 to be followed in each assessment:

- course specification
- 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 web page:

- [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 Practical Metalworking 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, 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 Practical Metalworking course specification is available on the [National 5 Practical Metalworking web page](#).

Specimen question paper

A specimen question paper has been created to reflect this new assessment component. The sampling regime is shown in the course specification and the specimen question paper is available on the [National 5 Practical Metalworking web page](#).

Coursework assessment task

A specimen coursework practical activity has been created to match the new marking instructions and log book. The practical activity is now an annually issued assessment. The assessment conditions can be found in the course specification.

Before candidates undertake the National 5 practical activity, we recommend that teachers and lecturers take the opportunity (perhaps in the class period before the candidates are due to begin) to take the candidates through the coursework documentation — the instructions and the practical activity itself — to ensure that all candidates understand what is expected of them and what the conditions of assessment are. Candidates will still have to respond to the practical activity.

The specimen coursework practical activity will be available on the [National 5 Practical Metalworking web page in November](#).

The annually issued practical activity includes marks for safe working and completing the log book. However, the implementation of the revised coursework will be staggered to facilitate the material requirements within centres:

- For session 2017–18, centres will make their choice from the existing three coursework objects on our secure website, but with new marking instructions.
 - During session 2017–18, we will issue a simplified version of the object to be produced from session 2018–2019 onwards. This will be published in the 'Resources' section of the Practical Metalworking subject page and will show what the object will look like, and include a materials/cutting list for the next three years.
 - At the end of October for each session 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21, we will issue a detailed version of the object on our secure website, along with instructions for
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teachers/lecturers and candidates. The detailed version will only be valid for that session as, although it is the same object (with the same materials/sizes) as shown on the 'simplified' version, there will be different joins/turnery templates.

We intend to refresh the coursework object every three years and we will give plenty of notice before doing so.

Supportive resources

National 5 CPD webinar

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

A recording of the webinar is available to view via our website and can be accessed from the **CPD webinar/audio and support** tab on the [National 5 Practical Metalworking web page](#).

Q&A document on the changes to assessment

During the question and answer section of the National 5 webinar, we received a number of questions about the changes to assessment. We have published a Q&A document to answer the questions raised. This document can be found on the [National 5 Practical Metalworking web page](#)

National 5 course events

We hosted a series of subject-specific events that focused on the changes to course assessment at National 5. During these events, teachers and lecturers had the opportunity to discuss the changes and to ask questions.

Common questions

We have updated our Common Questions document, to reflect the type of queries that we have received. This document can be found on the [Practical Metalworking subject page](#).

Further information and guidance

Material thicknesses

Coursework documentation (including working drawings) cannot be altered under any circumstance. However, following feedback from deliverers, centres can now alter material thicknesses (but not any other dimensions) where they are unable to reasonably source the thickness specified.

There is no need for centres to notify SQA of this alteration or the rationale for it. However, if selected for verification, inform the verifier of the change to thickness when they arrange the verification visit.

Coursework

SQA coursework assessments, whether internally or externally assessed, are secure documents. They are available on our secure website and they cannot be shared or discussed elsewhere. Other forums, particularly on social media, are not secure.

Recruitment

SQA is always looking for markers (for question papers and coursework) to support external assessment. If you would be interested in marking any of the technology subjects, please refer to the 'Recruitment' section of the SQA website:

<https://appointeeopportunities.sqa.org.uk/vacancies.html>

Course reports

Each year, SQA produces a course report for each subject/level. The course report highlights any issues that have been identified through quality assurance for internal, and external assessment and provides guidance for teachers and lecturers — essential reading for all deliverers.

Internal verification

A requirement of approval to offer SQA qualifications is that a centre has, and applies, an internal verification policy. Through our verification activity, we have found that most centres are carrying out some form of internal verification. It is also essential that the outcome of this activity is recorded and acted on.

Where two sets of marks have been allocated to a piece of work, a record of the discussion and the decision of which one to use must be kept.

Delivery time

The Practical Metalworking National 5 course is delivered over 160 hours of class time, as indicated by the SCQF level and points. This includes 40 hours for induction, extending the range of learning and teaching approaches, support, consolidation, integration of learning, preparation for course assessment and the course assessment itself.

Submission date — internal assessment mark form

Please note that the submission date for the internally assessed marks of the National 5 practical activity component of course assessment is 27 April 2018. Please refer to your SQA co-ordinator to ensure that all marks are prepared in time.

Approval to offer qualifications

Centres are advised that the National 5 Practical Metalworking course is no longer auto-approved. If your centre delivered this course in session 2016–17 or in either of the previous two sessions, you can carry on delivering. However, if your centre has not delivered in the past

three sessions or has never delivered this course, you will need to seek specific approval to offer this qualification. This must be done before delivery. Full details of the approval process can be found on our website: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/74661.html>

Verification groups

From August 2017, Practical Woodworking and Practical Metalworking will belong to distinct verification groups (rather than a combined group). This will not affect delivery or assessment, however, if you are selected for verification, it will no longer be for a generic 'Practical Technologies' or 'Practical Craft Skills' group but specifically for either the Practical Woodworking group or Practical Metalworking group.

The verification of the units that contribute to the National 3 Practical Craft Skills course will be covered under the Practical Woodworking group, irrespective of whether metal or wood has been used.

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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