

Dance

The Qualifications Team

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Diet 2018

Changes to documents following Diet 2018

We have made minor changes to the National 5 course specification and associated course support notes. We have clarified terminology in line with Higher and provided additional guidance on recommended choreographers.

We have also amended the National 5 practical activity assessment task. We have replaced the phrase 'use of space' with 'spatial elements' throughout for consistency with Higher terminology.

For full details of these changes, refer to the history of changes tables in the documents.

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for National 5 and Higher Dance. We produce these reports following the exam diet and they provide information on how candidates performed in course assessment for National Qualifications.

The course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing future candidates and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects.

Coursework

Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that you apply the specified assessment conditions for coursework. During the 2018 diet, we saw an increase in incidences of potential malpractice, where some centres had not followed the required conditions of assessment.

Please ensure you refer to the following documents when conducting coursework with your candidates. These documents detail the specific conditions of assessment that must be applied for each assessment:

- course specification
- coursework assessment task

You must also refer to our [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#), which provides important information on the time and volume of assessment, the use of resources, and the supervision, control and authentication of assessment — including examples.

Submitting coursework

Please ensure your candidates use the current, published coursework assessment tasks.

Higher

Changes to assessment at Higher

The Higher Dance course is now assessed through the following components:

Component	Mark	Scaled mark	Duration
Component 1: question paper	40	30	2 hours
Component 2: practical activity*	70	30	See course assessment
Component 3: performance	70	40	See course assessment

* The choreography is worth 45 marks and the choreography review is worth 25 marks.

Online resources to help you prepare for Higher assessment

As part of our Understanding Standards programme, we are providing a range of online resources to help you develop your understanding of the standards required in the revised course assessments for Higher. We have tailored this to each subject. Resources may include:

- **Presentations with audio** — a subject-specific presentation with an audio narration, to talk you through the requirements of the Higher assessment.
 - **Webinar recordings** — recordings of recent online CPD webinar sessions delivered by our subject implementation managers, to guide you through the changes to assessment.
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- **Candidate evidence and commentaries** — examples of candidate assessment evidence with a written commentary, to explain why the evidence has or has not met the required standards for the revised assessment.

You can access these materials via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the Higher subject page.

Find out more about the Understanding Standards programme at www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards.

Units that were previously part of the Higher course

The units that were previously part of the Higher course are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 6. These units no longer contribute to the Higher course.

We have removed references to Higher courses from the freestanding unit specifications, which are available from the freestanding units web page for each subject. There is a link to the freestanding units page from the 'see also' section on the subject landing at www.sqa.org.uk/ngsubjects.

Further information and guidance

Assessment arrangements

SQA's policy on access to assessment and qualifications allows for adjustments to be made to published assessment arrangements for the course(s) for candidates who are disabled and/or who have been identified as having particular difficulties. These are called assessment arrangements. Assessment arrangements can only be requested by schools or colleges. If you have candidates who need assessment arrangements in their external exam (question paper) you must enter the details in the AAR system.

If you are requesting an adapted paper or a digital paper you must make your request by 31 January 2019.

If you have candidates who need assessment arrangements in their performance you must call and discuss this with the Assessment Arrangements team 0345 213 6890 by 31 January 2019.

You **must** inform the Assessment Arrangements team before the visiting assessor visits. It is **not** the role of the visiting assessor to make **any** decision on assessment arrangements.

For further details, please see [Assessment Arrangements Explained: Information for centres](#).

2019 Dance external assessment timetable and year planner

31 January 2019	<p>The deadline for requesting adapted or digital question papers is 31 January 2019.</p> <p>The deadline for requesting assessment arrangements for visiting assessment is 31 January 2019.</p>
February to April 2019	<p>The visiting assessment period for National 5 and Higher Dance will run from 11 February to 26 April 2019.</p>
20 May 2019	<p>Question paper for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National 5 Dance• Higher Dance

Exceptional circumstances

The exceptional circumstances consideration service supports candidates who have been unable to attend an exam, or whose performance in the exam may have been affected by an incident beyond their control. This service is available for all exams that appear in the exam timetable.

We cannot accept SQA's National 5 and Higher Dance specimen question papers as the **only** evidence to support a request to consider exceptional circumstances. The specimen question papers and associated marking instructions are in the public domain and candidates can easily access them. A specimen question paper could form **part** of the evidence that centres include for the candidate; however we would also need additional evidence.

Understanding Standards material

New candidate evidence and commentaries for the National 5 Dance question paper will be published by November 2018 on our website. Centre News will inform you once these materials have been published.

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Contact us

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