

Drama

The Qualifications Team

Alastair Brown

Qualifications Manager

Marion Weir

Qualifications Officer

Neil Millar

Subject Implementation Manager

Diet 2018

Changes to documents following Diet 2018

In September 2018, we amended the preparation for performance marking instructions in the National 5 Drama Course Specification.

In September 2018, we amended the introductory text for section 2 of the National 5 Drama Specimen Question Paper.

The latest versions are available from the [National 5 Drama subject page](#) of our website.

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama. 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 (National 5 and Higher)
- course assessment specification (Advanced Higher)
- 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 Drama course is now assessed through the following components:

Component	Mark	Scaled mark	Duration
Component 1: question paper	50	40	2 hours and 30 minutes
Component 2: performance	60	60	See course assessment

The question paper has been extended by 10 marks to ensure it assesses content previously covered in the units.

Online resources to help you prepare for National 5 and 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 and additional resources for National 5. 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.
- **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 page at www.sqa.org.uk/ngsubjects.

Advanced Higher

Changes to assessment in Advanced Higher courses from session 2019–20

We will remove units and unit assessments from Advanced Higher courses for session 2019–20. We have started our review of the Advanced Higher course assessments and we have been working closely with our National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs) to identify the appropriate changes for each subject. Our NQSTs include teachers and lecturers who currently deliver National Courses and representatives of professional associations.

New and revised Advanced Higher materials will be published as follows:

End of April 2019	Revised Advanced Higher course specifications
End of May to end of September 2019	Course support notes New and revised specimen question papers New and revised coursework assessment tasks

We will provide further information about the changes to Advanced Higher assessment by the end of January 2019.

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 on 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 Drama external assessment timetable and year planner

31 January 2019	The deadline for requesting assessment arrangements for visiting examining is 31 January 2019 .
31 January 2019	The deadline for requesting adapted or digital question papers is 31 January 2019 .
February to April 2019	The visiting assessment period for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama will run from 11 February 2019 to 26 April 2019 .
May 2019	8 May 2019 is the SQA uplift date for the Advanced Higher Drama project–dissertation. This coursework is marked by SQA.
May 2019	Thursday 23 May 2019 Question paper for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National 5 Drama• Higher Drama

Updated guidance on the assessment of National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Drama performances

At SQA, we recognise that no young person should be put in a position where they feel uncomfortable taking on an acting role for their performance assessment, including roles of a particular gender. Therefore, from session 2018–19 onwards, candidates who are assessed for the Drama performance will have the option to choose roles that are the same as, or different from, the gender they identify with. This option will apply to all acting pieces.

Previously at Higher and Advanced Higher, both the Instructions to Centres and Visiting Assessors stipulated that candidates must not play two opposite gender roles. We have now removed this restriction.

We hope that removing this restriction will allow you to support your candidates in selecting roles that best suit their talents and needs, including roles of the gender they identify with.

(message first issued 11 June 2018)

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
