

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

The Qualifications Team

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Diet 2018

Changes to documents following Diet 2018

National 5 ESOL Reading Specimen Question Paper
National 5 ESOL Course Specification

For National 5, we have reviewed the timing of the reading question paper and extended it by 10 minutes. This increases the duration to 1 hour and 10 minutes. The above documents have been updated to reflect this change to the reading question paper, and are available on the [National 5 ESOL web page](#).

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for National 5 and Higher ESOL. 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/sqa/45678.

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)
- coursework assessment task

There are minor changes to the assessment conditions for the performance: speaking and listening. The conversation at National 5 and the discussion at Higher are ideally conducted in pairs, or alternatively in a group of no more than three. All candidates must receive an assessment brief, with some limited support from teachers and lecturers, at the start of the preparation time.

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

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.
- **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/sqa/45678.

Further information and guidance

E-learning resources

Practice assessments are available at each level on the [ESOL subject pages](#).

Changes to assessment in Higher

Component	Marks	Scaled mark	Duration
Component 1: question paper: Listening	25	20	45 minutes
Component 2: question paper: Reading	35	25	1 hour and 10 minutes
Component 3: question paper: Writing	30	25	1 hour and 40 minutes
Component 4: performance: Speaking and Listening	30	not applicable	see 'course assessment' section in course specification

Information on Higher marks scaling — ESOL

The following components of the Higher ESOL course will include marks scaling:

- listening
- reading
- writing

The purpose of scaling at Higher is to ensure that each skill has equal weighting. In order to assist centres, we have created the scaling grids below for each of the scaled components.

Listening	
Raw mark	Scaled mark
25	20
24	19
23	18
22	18
21	17
20	16
19	15
18	14
17	14
16	13
15	12
14	11
13	10
12	10
11	9
10	8
9	7
8	6
7	6
6	5
5	4
4	3
3	2
2	2
1	1

Reading	
Raw mark	Scaled mark
35	25
34	24
33	24
32	23
31	22
30	21
29	21
28	20
27	19
26	19
25	18
24	17
23	16
22	16
21	15
20	14
19	14
18	13
17	12
16	11
15	11
14	10
13	9
12	9
11	8
10	7
9	6
8	6
7	5
6	4
5	4
4	3
3	2
2	1
1	1

Writing	
Raw mark	Scaled mark
30	25
29	24
28	23
27	23
26	22
25	21
24	20
23	19
22	18
21	18
20	17
19	16
18	15
17	14
16	13
15	13
14	12
13	11
12	10
11	9
10	8
9	8
8	7
7	6
6	5
5	4
4	3
3	3
2	2
1	1

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