

Engineering Science

The Qualifications Team

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Diet 2018

Changes to documents following Diet 2018

The units that were previously part of the National 5 Engineering Science course are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 5 and have been republished to include thresholds and unit support notes.

There is a link to the freestanding units from the [subject landing page](#) of our website.

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for Engineering Science. 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 tasks

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 (National 5 and Higher)

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

If we receive coursework based on coursework assessment tasks from previous years, it will not attract any marks.

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. These resources are:

- **Presentations with audio** — a subject-specific presentation with an audio narration, to talk you through the requirements of the Higher assessment.
- **Webinar recording** — a recording of the recent online webinar session, to guide you through the changes to 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 the Higher course 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](#).

Advanced Higher

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

We will remove units and unit assessments from Advanced Higher courses for academic session 2019–20. We have started our review of the Advanced Higher course assessments and, where appropriate, we have been working closely with our National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs) to identify the appropriate assessment 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

Course content will be unchanged as part of this activity, however the content tables in the course specification may include minor alterations, such as re-ordering content, moving content from unit documents, and adding clarity where required.

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

Further information and guidance

Coursework

Following the first academic session of revised course assessment at National 5, we have a few reminders that will apply to both National 5 and Higher:

- The assignment is published to the secure area of SQA's website at the end of January each academic session.
 - Candidates must submit the assignment responses as single-sided A4 pages (with only the candidate name, date of birth, SCN, centre name and centre number on the reverse side). This keeps responses clear and identifiable, and also supports our electronic marking processes.
 - Candidates must ensure their final responses are clear, easy to read and written or printed in either blue or black ink.
 - The assignment responses must not have anything glued (or similar) to the pages. If photographs are used, these must be printed directly as part of the page and not stuck to a page.
 - You can give candidates practice tasks or activities to prepare for the assignment, however, you must ensure that any practice tasks or activities do not inform candidates of the specific content of the assignment.
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Significant figures — question paper

Centres should ensure that candidates give a final answer to the correct number of significant figures in the question paper (this is the same number as the lowest data value given in the question). If not, their final answer will be incorrect and will not attract the full range of marks. Candidates will find instructions on the front cover of the Engineering Science question paper.

Exemplification

Following the first academic session of revised course assessment at National 5, we are preparing a range of materials exemplifying both question paper and assignment performance. Once ready, these will be found on the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the [subject level page](#).

Grade boundaries

National 5:

Academic session 2017–18 was the first with the revised approach to National 5 course assessment (a longer question paper and a new format, annually issued and externally assessed assignment). Both assessments functioned as intended and the grade boundaries were set at notional points ('notional' is where the 'C', 'B' and 'A' grade boundaries are set at 50%, 60% and 70% of the available marks respectively).

Higher:

Academic session 2017–18 was the last with the current approach to Higher course assessment. The assignment functioned in the same way as last academic session, however, the question paper was found to be more demanding than intended and the grade boundaries were altered to reflect this.

Academic session 2018–19 will have a longer question paper and a new format, annually issued and externally assessed assignment.

Advanced Higher:

The project functioned in the same way as last academic session, however, the question paper was found to be more demanding than intended and the grade boundaries were altered to reflect this.

Grade boundaries for all subjects, and a guide explaining how they are set, can be found in the [statistics section](#) of our website.

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