

English

The Qualifications Team

Emma Bratchell

Qualifications Manager

Jay de Pellette-Super

Qualifications Officer

David Swinney

Subject Implementation Manager

Diet 2018

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher English. 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/45672.

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.

The 2018–19 version of the coursework template and associated instructions is available on the English subject pages. In response to feedback from teachers, lecturers, and candidates we have created a template which is compatible with Google Docs.

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 include:

- **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.

Audio-visual exemplification for the new Higher performance–spoken language is being finalised and will be published in due course. All SQA co-ordinators will receive an e-mail when this is available.

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/45672.

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 will soon be consulting with our National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs). 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, if appropriate 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

Understanding Standards material at National 5 and Advanced Higher

We are currently preparing new Understanding Standards material for National 5 and Advanced Higher.

For the National 5 Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation question paper and for the portfolio–writing, existing materials will be supplemented by additional candidate scripts and assessment commentaries from the 2018 assessment diet.

For Advanced Higher, we will publish advice and guidance specifically related to dissertation tasks. This includes a series of dissertation tasks accompanied by commentaries providing advice and guidance. The task is a crucial element of the dissertation planning. It not only

determines what the dissertation will involve and contain, it also provides a measure against which the dissertation is assessed.

Scottish set text list

In January 2017, we published the refreshed Scottish set text list for National 5 and Higher English, for use in session 2018–19 onwards. Publication of the refreshed list followed a period of consultation with teachers, lecturers, and other relevant bodies. A copy of the refreshed list is available on the [English subject page](#).

The list is reviewed and refreshed approximately every three years to ensure it remains relevant and to allow new texts to be introduced. Teachers and lecturers still have freedom to select texts for the critical essay section, meaning candidates study a range of literature at National 5 and Higher English.

For this year, centres should prepare candidates using the new set text list as this session's exams (May 2019) will assess content from the new list.

Literacy bridging pack

The National 5 Literacy bridging pack has been revised and will be republished shortly. The revisions reflect the removal of units from the National 5 English course, however there are no changes to assessment standards.

This resource contains information and advice on how to assess for National 5 Literacy alongside the delivery of freestanding SCQF level 5 units *Analysis and Evaluation* and *Creation and Production* or the National 5 English course.

Advanced Higher English coursework

Please note the following conditions for Advanced Higher English coursework.

Portfolio–writing

The portfolio–writing assesses writing in different genres for a range of purposes and audiences. The two pieces of writing submitted must be from two of the following genres: persuasive, informative, argumentative, reflective, poetry, prose fiction, and drama.

There is no requirement to write both creatively and discursively, however the writing must be from two different genres.

Project–dissertation

All dissertations must be on an aspect or aspects of literature. It is no longer possible to submit dissertations on language or media topics. This has been the case since the introduction of the new Advanced Higher.

Please remember that it is not permissible for candidates to study writers or texts for dissertation which have previously been taught.

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Contact us

Please contact our Customer Support Team:

Tel: 0303 333 0330

Fax: 0345 213 5000

E-mail: mycentre@sqa.org.uk
