

Graphic Communication

The Qualifications Team

Romana Howells

Qualifications Manager

Rowan Thomson

Qualifications Officer

Billy Wilson

Subject Implementation Manager

Diet 2018

Changes to documents following Diet 2018

The units that were previously part of the National 5 Graphic Communication course are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 5 and have been republished with an appendix showing unit content.

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for Graphic Communication. 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 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 include:

- **Presentation 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 CPD webinar session delivered by our subject implementation manager, 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 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](#).

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

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 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 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 for each academic session.
 - Candidates can practise tasks or activities to prepare for the assignment, however, teachers and lecturers must ensure that any tasks or activities used do not inform candidates of the specific content of the assignment.
 - Candidates have 8 hours to complete the closed-book assignment and it must be conducted under a high degree of supervision and control.
 - Candidates at National 5 and Higher should be able to sketch manually without the aid of either straight edges or grid paper. However, if a candidate needs to use either a straight edge or grid paper, this is permitted.
 - Candidates must submit the assignment responses as single-sided A3 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 marking processes.
-

-
- Candidates must complete and sign flyleaves for their coursework. These are sent to centres in early February and electronic copies are also available on our secure website in March.

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. Centres will be notified when these are available.

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 and the question paper functioned in the same way as last year.

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 session, however, the question paper was found to be less 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.

Common questions

We have revised the common questions about Graphic Communication and these can be found on the [subject landing page](#).

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
