

Modern Languages

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Diet 2018

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for National 5, Higher, and Advanced Higher Modern Languages. 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 [Modern Language subject pages](#) of our website.

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.

Candidates are required to submit the National 5 and Higher assignment–writing in an answer booklet. SQA will issue centres with this stationery in early November 2018. A Word and PDF version of the booklet will be available in the ‘Coursework’ tabs of the National 5 and Higher Modern Languages web pages.

The Word version is for candidates who wish to complete the assignment–writing electronically, and the PDF version allows centres to print additional booklets if required.

For the Chinese languages — Cantonese, Mandarin (Simplified), Mandarin (Traditional) — only a PDF version is available.

Note: answer booklets will be available for each National 5 and Higher Modern Languages course — Cantonese, French, Gaelic (Learners), German, Italian, Mandarin (Simplified), Mandarin (Traditional), Spanish, Urdu — and it is important to use the specified booklet.

Candidates submitting handwritten booklets must complete these in blue or black ink.

If candidates complete the assignment–writing electronically using the Word version of the booklet(s), it is essential that each booklet is printed double-sided to constitute a submission.

Uplift dates for the assignment–writing are:

National 5: Thursday 21 March 2019

Higher: Thursday 28 March 2019

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.

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.

We have created the following specific resources to support revised course assessment at Higher.

Modern Languages webinars and questions and answers document

To assist teachers and lecturers prepare for the changes to assessment in Higher Modern Languages courses, we ran a series of subject-specific webinars focusing on the requirements and delivery of the new assignment–writing and the revised performance–talking assessment tasks.

A recording of one of these webinars is available to view on the [CPD webinars and materials web page](#).

We have also published a question and answer document alongside the webinar recording. It provides answers to questions discussed during the webinar, as well as to some of the most frequently asked questions from teachers and lecturers that we have received elsewhere.

Coursework assessment tasks — exemplification

Assignment–writing

There is a new Higher assignment–writing assessment task this session. It contains an example of a writing improvement code, with exemplars in French and Spanish indicating how this code may be applied. The document contains a range of suggested writing stimuli covering the contexts of society, learning, employability, culture and also includes instructions for candidates.

In July 2018, we published additional exemplars of the Higher assignment–writing.

Six exemplars (2 French, 2 German, 2 Spanish) and their associated commentary are currently available in a single document which is accessed by selecting either French, German or Spanish from the subject box on our [Understanding Standards website](#).

In autumn 2019, exemplars for other languages will be available after the first diet of the revised Higher Modern Languages course.

Following the first diet of examinations for the revised National 5 courses, we have recently published candidate exemplars of National 5 assignment–writing, and these are also available on the Understanding Standards website.

Performance–talking

We have revised the existing Higher performance–talking assessment task. The marking instructions are now available in the *Higher Modern Languages Course Specification*. We have updated the performance–talking recording documentation, and revised the ‘Instructions for candidates’ section.

Audio recordings of the revised performance–talking exemplars are now available on SQA secure. These illustrate the new discussion format across all Higher Modern Languages courses, and contain associated commentary and marks awarded.

Both Higher Modern Languages coursework assessment tasks are available from the ‘Coursework’ tab on the [Higher Modern Languages web page](#).

Directed writing — revised marking instructions and new exemplification

Revised directed writing marking instructions are currently available as part of the Higher Modern Languages specimen question papers published in August 2018 on SQA’s website.

From 2019, directed writing marking instructions will be available as part of the annual release of question papers and associated marking instructions.

In July 2018, we published exemplars of Higher directed writing.

Eight exemplars (4 French, 4 Spanish) and their associated commentary are currently available in a single document which is accessed by selecting either French or Spanish from the subject box on our [Understanding Standards website](#).

Units that were previously part of the Higher courses

The units that were previously part of the Higher courses 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 [Modern Languages 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 are 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 any changes to Advanced Higher assessment by the end of January 2019.

Further information and guidance

Higher listening question paper

We would like to remind you, and your candidates, that the use of dictionaries is **not permitted** in the new Higher listening question paper.

National 5 performance–talking exemplification

In August 2018, we began to publish new National 5 performance–talking exemplification for all Modern Languages courses on SQA secure. Candidate recordings illustrate performances which sample additional context(s) in the conversation to the context selected for the presentation. Associated commentary and marks awarded are available for each performance.

Appointee opportunities

We are currently recruiting the following roles:

- Advanced Higher Spanish visiting assessor
- Italian markers — all levels
- Advanced Higher Italian principal assessor

Further details, including role profiles and application information, are available at appointeeopportunities.sqa.org.uk.

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