

# Classical Studies

## The Qualifications Team

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## Diet 2019

### Changes to documents following Diet 2019

#### Higher

##### Specimen question papers

In September 2019, we made the following amendments to the specimen question papers marking instructions to provide further clarity:

- ◆ In the Classical Literature specimen question paper, question 1(a) or (b) *Discuss a theme in classical literature*, we have removed the wording 'in some instances unclearly expressed or inaccurate' from the 5–6 marks range for 'Use of knowledge'.
- ◆ In the Classical Literature and the Classical Society specimen question papers, in the question *Compare a modern source/quote with a classical idea(s)*, the wording 'identifies relevant points' has replaced 'interprets relevant points' to clarify that the skill is comparing a modern source with classical ideas. The wording 'Award 2 marks' has changed to 'Award up to 2 marks' to clarify that candidates can be awarded 1 mark.

##### Coursework assessment task

- ◆ Typographical change made to the detailed marking instructions. In D Analysis and evaluating, for the 11–12 mark range, the wording 'illustrates there is change and continuity and/or ranges of experiences' has changed to 'illustrates there is change and continuity and ranges of experiences'. This is to clarify that candidates should discuss both change and continuity, and a range of experiences for this full mark range.

Please ensure candidates use the current, published coursework assessment tasks. The Higher Classical Studies specimen question papers and coursework assessment task are available on the [Higher Classical Studies subject page](#).

## Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for Classical Studies. We produce these reports following the exam diet and they provide information on how candidates performed in course assessment for National Qualifications.

Course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing candidates for future assessment, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course reports are available from the subject pages of our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects).

## Coursework

### Submitting coursework

Ahead of the uplift of coursework materials, we would like to remind you that the National 5 and Higher coursework assessment tasks require candidates to submit their resource sheet along with their coursework. A penalty will be applied in the case of non-submission — details can be found in the course specification.

### Submission dates

The 2019–20 uplift dates for the externally-assessed Classical Studies coursework assessment tasks are:

National 5 assignment	18 March 2020
Higher assignment	23 April 2020
Advanced Higher project–dissertation	23 April 2020

Liaise with your SQA co-ordinator to ensure that all materials are prepared in time for uplift.

Please ensure all candidate resource sheets are submitted for the 2019–20 session. Further information can be found in our [Coursework for External Assessment](#) document and the subject pages of our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects).

## Information and guidance

### Classical Studies review

We would like to thank everyone who completed our Classical Studies survey. If you would still like to share your experience of our Classical Studies courses, please contact the Qualifications Team: Denise ([Denise.Dunlop@sqa.org.uk](mailto:Denise.Dunlop@sqa.org.uk)) and Alison ([Alison.James@sqa.org.uk](mailto:Alison.James@sqa.org.uk)).

### National 5 question paper

From session 2020–21, for Section 2 — Classical Literature, ‘text’ will replace ‘text(s)’. For example questions 7(a) and 8(a) will read ‘Describe ... in a classical text.’

## **National 5 assignment**

In preparation for the assignment, centres should encourage candidates to:

- ◆ select a question or issue that allows a challenge or counter argument
- ◆ focus on primary evidence which allows more opportunity for discussion

## **Understanding Standards**

### **Understanding Standards webinar**

We are running an Advanced Higher Classical Studies webinar on Monday 25 November 2019. The focus of this is on the project–dissertation.

To view the webinar schedule and book your place, visit <http://www.sqa.org.uk/ngevents>. The webinars are free to join and contribute to ongoing CPD.

### **Understanding Standards events**

Our Understanding Standards event in October 2019 focused on the changes to assessment in the Higher and Advanced Higher Classical Studies courses. Delegates participated in workshops and discussed candidate evidence from the first diet of the revised Higher course assessment, and had their questions answered by the principal assessor and members of the examining team.

We will publish the materials from this event, including commentaries that explain why the evidence has or has not met the required national standards, in due course. You will be able to access them via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the [Higher](#) and [Advanced Higher](#) Classical Studies subject pages. There will be an update in Centre News when these materials are available.

## **National Qualifications Support Team**

We would like to add to the existing membership of the Classical Studies National Qualifications Support Team (NQST).

NQSTs are subject-specific stakeholder consultation groups that feed back to SQA on the assessment of National Qualifications. These groups communicate via secure online discussion forums as well as an annual face-to-face meeting.

For more information and to express an interest in joining the team, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/nqst](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqst).

## **Appointee and marker vacancies**

We would like to thank all appointees who worked with us in session 2018–19.

From time to time we advertise appointee opportunities which may be of interest and we would encourage applications from all who meet the role criteria. Becoming an appointee is a rewarding experience which helps to increase your awareness of the demands of course assessment and provides excellent professional and personal development.

More information is available on our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/appointees](http://www.sqa.org.uk/appointees).

# Advanced Higher

## Online resources to help you prepare for Advanced Higher assessment

As part of our Understanding Standards programme, we are providing a range of supportive resources to help you develop your understanding of the standards required in the revised course assessments for Advanced Higher. This may include audio presentations, published candidate evidence and commentary materials, and webinar recordings, which we have tailored to meet the needs of each subject.

You can access Understanding Standards materials via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on our [Advanced Higher subject page](#).

## Units that were previously part of the Advanced Higher courses

The units that were previously part of the Advanced Higher courses are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 7. These units no longer contribute to the Advanced Higher courses. We have removed references to Advanced 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](#).

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### Contact us

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