

Graphic Communication

The Qualifications Team

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Diet 2019

Changes to documents following Diet 2019

National 4 course support notes

A 'standards and conventions' appendix was added to the National 4 Graphic Communication course support notes. This makes National 4 consistent with National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Graphic Communication. The appendix replaces the former stand-alone British Standard document.

Course reports

Please read the annual course report 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.

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.

Coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that you apply the specified assessment conditions for coursework. During the 2019 diet we saw an increase in incidences of potential malpractice, where some centres had not followed the required conditions of assessment. The following reminders apply to both National 5 and Higher assignments:

- ◆ You must not post excerpts of the assignment on online forums or on social media platforms, as the assignments are secure assessments. We investigated cases of this in session 2018–19 and took appropriate malpractice action. You can find more information on this in the [Malpractice: Information for Centres](#) document on our website.
- ◆ Candidates can practise tasks or activities to prepare for the assignment, however, you must ensure that any tasks or activities used do not inform candidates of the specific content of the assignment.
- ◆ Candidates have 8 hours to independently complete the closed-book assignment and you must ensure that it is conducted under a high degree of supervision and control.
- ◆ 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, supporting our marking processes.
- ◆ Candidates must complete and sign flyleaves for their coursework.

Submitting coursework

The assignments for National 5 and Higher for session 2019–20 will be published on our secure site in January 2020. Only these assignments are valid; if assignments from previous academic sessions are used, they will not attract any marks.

Uplift dates for coursework materials:

- ◆ March 2020 — National 5
- ◆ April 2020 — Higher and Advanced Higher

Further information can be found in our [Coursework for External Assessment](#) document and the subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/ngsubjects.

Information and guidance

Assignment preparation

For National 5, you should support candidates to understand third-angle projection and to learn how to apply and understand hidden detail in orthographic sketches.

Session 2018–19 was the first year that Higher had an annual assignment task marked by SQA. Candidates were well prepared for the assignment. The quality of the work produced showed that they were able to put the practical elements of the Higher course into practice to a very good standard, particularly in the CAD work. However, DTP is an area that could be improved, as some candidates did not produce work of Higher standard.

Appointment opportunities

From time to time we advertise appointee opportunities. Becoming an appointee is a rewarding and useful experience and we would encourage applications from all who meet the role criteria. You can find out more about [appointees](#) from our website.

Common questions

You can find common questions and answers about Graphic Communication on the [subject page](#). If you have any questions that are not answered there, please do not hesitate to contact us.

National Qualification Support team (NQST)

We have an NQST (Design and Technology) that acts as an advisory group for this subject (and other technology subjects), primarily commenting on assessment. We are looking to expand the membership of this team; if you are interested, you can find more information about [National Qualification Support Teams](#) on our website, together with an [application form](#).

Question paper preparation

At both National 5 and Higher, some candidates are still answering 'describe' and 'explain' questions with bulleted statements or single-word responses. Candidates must expand their responses in line with the command word, to fully answer the question and access all available marks. We recommend that you encourage candidates to support their responses with sketches. Although sketching is not an assessment requirement, some candidates find it challenging to express their responses in writing. This is particularly evident in 3D CAD modelling questions at all levels.

Understanding Standards events

We have organised [Understanding Standards events](#) in November 2019 for both National 5 and Higher. These events are aimed at teachers who do not mark. We will be using marker training materials from the 2019 diet and will focus on the assignment, with a section covering hints and tips for question paper preparation at the end.

You can book onto these events using our online [Event Booking System](#). Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. There is also a maximum of one delegate place per centre, per subject. If you have any queries, please call our Events Team on 0345 213 5580 or email sqaevents@sqa.org.uk.

Exemplification

We will publish Understanding Standards materials from the 2019 diet for both National 5 and Higher following the Understanding Standards events. Exemplification produced in 2018 for National 5 is currently available on the [Understanding Standards web page](#).

Units

The units that previously contributed to the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses are still available for centres to use on a freestanding basis. You should note that they no longer form a hierarchy with the National 4 units.

Advanced Higher

Advanced Higher coursework

Unlike the National 5 and Higher assignments, the Advanced Higher project is an open brief and not issued annually. The project is conducted under some supervision and control, and submitted to SQA for marking. The coursework is available on the [Advanced Higher Graphic Communication subject page](#).

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 includes an audio presentation and a webinar recording. Exemplification of the project will be available following the 2020 diet.

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

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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