

# Modern Languages

## **The Qualifications Team**

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## **Course reports**

Please read the annual course reports for Modern Languages. 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).

# Information and guidance

## Changes to documents

To provide further clarification, we have made minor amendments to wording relating to both the assignment–writing and the performance–talking at National 5 and Higher in the course specifications and coursework assessment tasks.

## Modern Languages for Life and Work Award verification

In addition to verification of individual units of the Award, we are extending quality assurance processes to include verification of the Award as a whole. We will select a number of centres for verification and inform them in December 2019. Details on evidence centres should submit will be communicated in due course.

## Advanced Higher

While there are no changes to the format of the question papers and coursework tasks at Advanced Higher, there are some changes to the marking instructions for the portfolio, the performance–talking, and section 2: Discursive Writing in the Listening and Discursive Writing question paper.

The marking instructions for the portfolio and the performance–talking are available in the relevant sections of the most recently published course specification.

The marking instructions for Discursive Writing are currently available as part of the revised Listening and Discursive Writing specimen question papers. From 2020, the marking instructions will be available as part of the annually published Listening and Discursive Writing marking instructions.

Additional changes include:

### Portfolio

- ◆ the ‘Course assessment structure: portfolio’ section of the course specification provides enhanced information on sources for the portfolio under ‘Resources’
- ◆ the portfolio assessment task provides information on sources and critical terminology in the ‘Instructions for candidates’ section, and there is an example of a portfolio logbook in the ‘Instructions for teachers and lecturers’ section
- ◆ ‘appendix 1: course support notes’ in the course specification provides additional information on critical terminology

### Performance–talking

- ◆ there are minor changes to the 2020 Subject Topic List (STL) form
- ◆ a guidance document on how to complete the STL form is now available under the ‘Coursework’ tab of the [Advanced Higher Modern Languages 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 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 the [subject pages](#) of our website.

Shortly after the Advanced Higher Modern Languages Understanding Standards event taking place on Thursday 31 October 2019 in Stirling, we are publishing the following:

- ◆ portfolio: exemplars of candidate evidence and associated commentary for each modern language
- ◆ discursive writing: exemplars of candidate evidence and associated commentary for each modern language
- ◆ overall purpose question: exemplars of candidate evidence and associated commentary for each modern language
- ◆ performance–talking: exemplars of candidate evidence and associated commentary for each modern language

## **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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