



Modern Studies

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Diet 2019

Changes to documents following Diet 2019

National 5

We have revised the general marking principles for the 10-mark source conclusion question to provide clarity on how marks are awarded.

We have updated the specimen question paper marking instructions to reflect this revision.

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for Modern 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.

Coursework

Submitting coursework

Please ensure candidates use the current, published coursework assessment task and specimen question paper.

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

Please ensure all candidate research 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.

Submission dates

The 2019–20 uplift dates for the externally assessed Modern Studies components are:

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

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

National 5 assignment

We have updated the template (including the Gaelic Medium version) for completing the National 5 Modern Studies assignment. The updated template no longer includes the flyleaf, but includes a new front cover. No other changes have been made to the template.

The flyleaf will be issued to you in line with all other subjects. Please use the updated template, which you can find on the [National 5 Modern Studies subject page](#).

Advanced Higher project-dissertation

We have updated the approved list of Advanced Higher dissertations for session 2019–20. You can find this on the [Advanced Higher Modern Studies subject page](#) under the 'Coursework' tab.

Information and guidance

Understanding Standards events

In September and October 2019 we held a series of Understanding Standards events for National 5 and Advanced Higher Modern Studies. These events used candidate evidence from the 2019 diet and gave delegates the opportunity to strengthen their understanding of the standards required for the course assessment components at each level.

The candidate evidence and commentaries from these events are available on our Understanding Standards website: www.understandingstandards.org.uk.

We will also publish new candidate evidence and commentaries for the Higher course assessment components shortly.

Marker recruitment opportunities for 2020

We are now accepting marker applications from teaching professionals to contribute to the 2020 exam diet. If you are interested in joining us as a marker, please visit the [appointee opportunities section](#) of our website, where you will find a marker advert for all subjects and levels with details of the role.

Becoming a marker helps to increase your awareness of the demands of course assessment and provides excellent professional and personal development.

Please check www.sqa.org.uk/appointees regularly for other appointee opportunities that may be of interest to you.

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 the subject pages of our website at www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects.

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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