

## Art and Design and Photography

### The Qualifications Team

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## Changes to assessment at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher

As announced by the Deputy First Minister in September 2016, units and unit assessments are being removed from National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses on a phased basis over three years:

- National 5 from 2017–18
- Higher from 2018–19
- Advanced Higher from 2019–20

For more information, including a Q&A on the implications of these changes, please visit our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqchanges)

### Units that were previously part of National 5 courses

The units that were previously part of National 5 courses are now freestanding units at SCQF level 5. They can no longer be used to contribute to the achievement of a National 5 course.

We will remove all references to National 5 courses from the unit specifications, unit support notes and unit assessment support packs in due course, and the unit support notes will be added to the unit specifications as an appendix. The unit specifications will also be relocated to a new freestanding units web page for each subject.

Further information on the timescales for this will be provided in our weekly Centre News newsletter.

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## Changes to assessment in National 5

The National 5 Art and Design course is now assessed through the following components:

Component	Marks
question paper	50
expressive portfolio	100
design portfolio	100

## Changes to assessment in Higher courses from session 2018–19

Units and unit assessments will be removed from Higher courses from session 2018–19 and we have started our review of the Higher course assessments. For this, we are working closely with our National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs) for each subject. Our NQSTs include teachers and lecturers who currently deliver National Courses, and representatives of professional associations. We will also meet with a sample of teachers to gauge their views on the proposed changes and the implications of these.

The publication of new and revised Higher materials will follow a similar timescale to National 5:

<b>End of April 2018</b>	Revised Higher course specifications
<b>End of May to end of September 2018</b>	Course support notes New/revised specimen question papers New/revised coursework assessment tasks

### Higher Photography

As part of the review process, we plan to clarify the mandatory content of the course. This will be published in the revised course specification at the end of April 2018.

We will provide further information on what the changes to assessment are for each subject by the end of January 2018.

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## Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that the specified assessment conditions for coursework are consistently applied in all centres. The following documents detail the specific conditions that must be followed in each assessment:

- course specification
- course assessment specification (Higher and Advanced Higher only)
- coursework assessment task

In addition to these documents, you must also refer to the following document, which is available from the coursework section of the National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher web pages:

- [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#)

This document provides important information on the time and volume of assessment, the use of resources, and the supervision, control and authentication of assessment — including examples.

## Changes to documents

### New and revised National 5 documents and assessment support materials

Following the removal of units and unit assessments from the National 5 Art and Design course, we have strengthened the course assessment to ensure it assesses the full content of the course.

We have published revised course specifications and new and revised assessment support materials for the National 5 course, which detail the requirements of the revised course assessments from session 2017–18 onwards. The documents are available from the National 5 subject web pages at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects). Further information on the changes to documents and assessment support materials is provided below.

#### Course specification

In April 2017, we published a revised course specification which provided detailed information about the National 5 course and course assessment, including the conditions of assessment that must be followed. The revised document was produced by merging the previous course specifications, course assessment specifications and general assessment information into a single, streamlined document. Course support notes have been added to the course specification as an appendix.

The National 5 Art and Design course specification is available on the [subject page](#).

#### Specimen question paper

The specimen question paper has been revised to include content previously only assessed in the units. This content has been added to the Mandatory Questions, 1 and 7.

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These questions now include a part b), and ask the candidates to explain the impact of social, cultural and/or other influences on any of the work and practice of an artist/designer they discussed in part a).

Part b) is worth up to 5 marks, increasing the total for the mandatory questions to 15 marks each.

The National 5 Art and Design specimen question paper is available on the [subject page](#).

### **Coursework assessment tasks**

There are two coursework components, an Expressive portfolio and a Design portfolio. Both coursework assessment tasks include content that was previously only assessed in the units.

#### **Expressive portfolio**

Throughout the portfolio, candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding by:

- responding to their agreed theme/stimulus by producing relevant 2D/3D analytical drawings, studies and investigative research, and using this to produce a single line of development leading to a final piece
- using a selection of materials, techniques and/or technology, visual elements and expressive effects
- reflecting on and evaluating their creative process and the visual qualities of their portfolio with reference to their theme/stimulus

#### **Design portfolio**

Throughout the portfolio, candidates have the opportunity to demonstrate skills, knowledge and understanding by:

- responding to their design brief, producing and compiling a variety of relevant 2D/3D investigative material and market research, and using this to produce a single line of development leading to a design solution
- using a selection of materials, techniques and/or technology, and demonstrating their understanding of design elements
- reflecting on and evaluating their creative process and the aesthetic and functional qualities of their design portfolio with reference to their design brief requirements

The coursework assessment task documents can be found under the 'Coursework' section of the National 5 Art and Design [subject page](#).

For both the expressive portfolio and design portfolio, candidates must include an evaluation. SQA has produced an evaluation template for candidates to complete and submit with their portfolios, and **the use of this template is mandatory**.

The evaluation templates and the *National 5 and Higher Evaluations Instructions* document can be found in the 'Coursework' section of the National 5 Art and Design [subject page](#).

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## Changes to documents following Diet 2017

### Higher Art and Design

For the course assessment at Higher, candidates are required to submit a design portfolio and an expressive portfolio — both of which should include an evaluation. SQA has produced an evaluation template for candidates to complete and submit with their portfolios, and the use of this template is mandatory.

The evaluation templates and the 'National 5 and Higher Evaluations Instructions' document can be found in the 'Submitting coursework' section of the Higher Art and Design subject page.

## Supportive resources

### National 5 audio presentation

We have published an audio presentation that focuses on the requirements of the revised National 5 course assessment.

You can access the audio presentation from the **CPD webinar/audio and support** tab on the [National 5 Art and Design web page](#).

### National 5 course events

We are hosting a series of subject-specific events that focus on the changes to assessment in National 5 courses. The events are running until January 2018 and provide delegates with the opportunity to participate in workshops and discuss the course documents, as well as have their questions answered by senior examining team members.

To view the event schedule and book your place, visit [www.sqa.org.uk/ngevents](http://www.sqa.org.uk/ngevents)

## Course Reports

We strongly recommend that you read the annual Course Reports for the subjects and levels you are teaching. These reports are produced following the annual diet of exams and are published by the end of October. The reports provide informed and valuable commentary on the assessment for each component in the course, and include a summary of:

- candidate performance in the course assessment
- areas in which candidates performed well
- areas which candidates found demanding

The reports also contain advice on preparing future candidates, and statistical data relating to grade boundaries. Course Reports will be available from the relevant subject pages of our website at [www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects](http://www.sqa.org.uk/nqsubjects)

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## Higher Art and Design webinar

In December 2016, we ran a webinar focusing on the Higher Art and Design question paper and the coursework assessment task. The recording of this webinar along with an accompanying questions and answers document can be found on our secure site.

## Candidate evidence and commentary materials

New candidate evidence and commentary materials will be published in due course on our secure website for the following assessments:

- Higher Photography — Project
- Advanced Higher Art and Design — Critical Analysis

These materials contain examples of real candidate assessment evidence and a commentary that explains why the evidence has, or has not, met the required assessment standards. You can access them from [www.understandingstandards.org.uk](http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk) / the Understanding Standards section of our secure website.

These materials are a really useful resource for helping you to strengthen your understanding of the standards required for assessment.

We will continue to publish new Understanding Standards materials throughout the coming session and you can access them from the following locations:

Our Understanding Standards website <a href="http://www.understandingstandards.org.uk">www.understandingstandards.org.uk</a>	Our secure website <a href="https://secure.sqa.org.uk">https://secure.sqa.org.uk</a>
Candidate evidence and commentaries for externally assessed components of course assessment (including question papers).	Candidate evidence and commentaries for unit assessment and internally assessed components of course assessment.

You can arrange access to our secure website through your SQA co-ordinator. Any materials downloaded from our secure website must be stored securely and treated as confidential.

## Further information and guidance

### National Qualification Support Team

We would like to add to the existing membership of the Art and Design and Photography National Qualifications Support Team (NQST).

NQSTs are subject-specific stakeholder consultation groups that feed back to SQA on the internal and external 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)

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## Stay informed

### Subscribe to Centre News

Our weekly Centre News newsletter contains the latest news and updates for centres delivering SQA qualifications. The newsletter is sent to your SQA co-ordinator and you can also subscribe directly at <http://mailer.sqa.org.uk/centrenews/step1>

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YouTube: [SQAonline](https://www.youtube.com/SQAonline)

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