

Chemistry

The Qualifications Team

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Diet 2018

Changes to documents following Diet 2018

National 3 Chemistry

We have updated the National 3 unit specifications to include amended assessment guidance outlined in the *Understanding the Next Steps* document, which was originally published in session 2016–17.

In April 2018 we updated the unit assessment support (UAS) packs for National 3 to incorporate guidance from the *Understanding the Next Steps* document.

In August 2018 we published new outcome 2, assessment activity 2 tests on SQA's secure website.

National 4 Chemistry

We have updated the National 4 unit specifications to include amended assessment guidance outlined in the *Understanding the Next Steps* document, which was originally published in session 2016–17.

In April 2018 we updated the UAS packs for National 4 to incorporate guidance from the *Understanding the Next Steps* document.

In June 2018 we published new outcome 2, assessment activity 2 tests on SQA's secure website.

National 5 Chemistry

In response to feedback from centres and our analysis of candidate performance, we have made minor amendments to some National 5 documents.

We have made minor amendments to the *National 5 Chemistry Course Specification* to clarify the resources for the report stage.

We have made corresponding amendments to the *National 5 Chemistry Coursework Assessment Task*, which clarify the research and report stages of the assignment. We have also made minor changes to the marking instructions, based on the 2018 exam diet.

Both documents are published on the [National 5 Chemistry](#) page of our website.

SCQF level 5 freestanding units

We have updated the unit specifications to include content tables, which were part of the previous *National 5 Chemistry Course and Unit Support Notes*. We have also included amended assessment guidance from the *Understanding the Next Steps* document, which was originally published for session 2016–17.

Higher Chemistry

As part of the revisions to National Qualifications, we have published documents relating to Higher Chemistry.

These include:

- course specification with course support notes as an appendix
- coursework assessment task
- specimen question papers

SCQF level 6 freestanding units

We have updated the unit specifications for this level to include content tables, which were part of the previous *Higher Chemistry Course and Unit Support Notes*. We have also included amended assessment guidance from the *Understanding the Next Steps* document, which was originally published for session 2016–17.

We removed H21L 76 *Chemistry in Society* outcome 2: assessment activity 2 — test 1 from the secure website on 30 January 2018. Centres that used this assessment before we removed it from the secure website do not need to re-assess candidates who have passed the test. Centres planning to use this assessment should use one of the alternatives available, such as test 2 or the original UAS packs.

Advanced Higher Chemistry

We have published new outcome 2 assessment activity 2 tests for the units *Inorganic and Physical Chemistry* (December 2017, June 2018) and *Researching Chemistry* (June 2018). These tests are available on our secure website.

We have updated the *Advanced Higher Chemistry Coursework Assessment Task* and *General Assessment Information* documents to reflect minor revisions to the marking instructions and candidate guide.

Course reports

Please read the annual course reports for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Chemistry. We produce these reports following the exam diet and they provide information on how candidates performed in course assessment for National Qualifications. This year's course reports highlighted the importance of giving candidates sufficient practical experience.

The course reports include a summary of areas candidates performed well in and areas candidates found demanding. They also contain advice on preparing future candidates 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

Conditions of assessment for coursework

To ensure fairness for all candidates, it is essential that you apply the specified assessment conditions for coursework. During the 2018 diet, we saw an increase in incidences of potential malpractice, where some centres had not followed the required conditions of assessment.

Please ensure you refer to the following documents when conducting coursework with your candidates. These documents detail the specific conditions of assessment that must be applied for each assessment:

- course specification (National 5 and Higher)
- general assessment information (Advanced Higher)
- coursework assessment task

National 5 Chemistry

From session 2018–19, we have updated and clarified the assessment guidance in relation to the information candidates can access during the report stage. To support underlying chemistry, in the report stage candidates must only use extracts from an internet/literature source. The guidance previously stated that candidates were permitted to use 'information' in support of underlying chemistry, which some centres found difficult to interpret and to distinguish from a draft.

Higher Chemistry

We have revised the Higher Chemistry course. It has a new coursework assessment task, with associated assessment conditions that centres must adhere to. You must be familiar with the coursework assessment task before undertaking any coursework with candidates.

You must also refer to the [Guidance on conditions of assessment for coursework](#), which provides important information on the time and volume of assessment, the use of resources, and the supervision, control and authentication of assessment — including examples.

Submitting coursework

Please ensure your candidates use the current, published coursework assessment tasks.

Higher

Online resources to help you prepare for Higher assessment

As part of our Understanding Standards programme, we are providing a range of online resources to help you develop your understanding of the standards required in the revised course assessments for Higher. We have tailored this to each subject. Resources include:

- **Presentations with audio** — a subject-specific presentation with an audio narration, to talk you through the requirements of the Higher assessment.
- **Webinar recordings** — recordings of recent online CPD webinar sessions delivered by subject implementation managers, to guide you through the changes to assessment.
- **Candidate evidence and commentaries** — examples of candidate assessment evidence with a written commentary, to explain why the evidence has or has not met the required standards for the revised assessment.

You can access these materials via the 'Understanding Standards' tab on the Higher subject page.

Find out more about the Understanding Standards programme at www.sqa.org.uk/understandingstandards.

Units that were previously part of the Higher course

The units that were previously part of the Higher course are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 6. These units no longer contribute to the Higher course.

Unit specifications for freestanding units for [Chemistry](#) at SCQF level 6 are available from the freestanding units web page. The unit specifications contain unit content, threshold information and unit support notes. We have removed references to Higher courses from the freestanding unit specifications.

Advanced Higher

Changes to assessment in Advanced Higher courses from session 2019–20

We will remove units and unit assessments from Advanced Higher courses for session 2019–20. We have started our review of the Advanced Higher course assessments and we have been working closely with our National Qualifications Support Teams (NQSTs) to identify the appropriate changes for each subject. Our NQSTs include teachers and lecturers who currently deliver National Courses and representatives of professional associations.

New and revised Advanced Higher materials will be published as follows:

End of April 2019	Revised Advanced Higher course specifications
End of May to end of September 2019	Course support notes New and revised specimen question papers New and revised coursework assessment tasks

We will provide further information about the changes to Advanced Higher assessment by the end of January 2019.

Further information and guidance

Unit assessments for National 5 and Higher Chemistry

We have received a number of enquiries and requests relating to updating unit assessments for National 5 and Higher Chemistry to reflect content removal and/or restructuring of content.

Units and unit assessments have been removed from the National 5 and Higher Chemistry course and candidates are assessed through the course assessment only. The units that were previously part of the National 5 and Higher courses are now available as freestanding units at SCQF level 5 and SCQF level 6 and the existing UAS packs can still be used to assess these units. If centres present candidates for the freestanding units, they should be aware that there is no change to the content of these units and they will not be updated to reflect the changes to the National 5 and Higher courses.

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