

Classical Studies

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

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.

Changes to assessment in National 5

The National 5 Classical Studies course is now assessed through the following components only:

Component	Marks
Question paper	80
Assignment	20

Clarification of course content in the National 5 course

The course content was reviewed and refined to provide greater clarity on assessment coverage. Where previously broad areas were given as guidance on the course content for the Life in Classical Greece and Life in the Roman World units, more detail has been added for clarification. Candidates should be able to identify similarities and differences between the aspects of the classical world studied and the modern world, eg comparing Greek education with contemporary education. The course content for the Classical Literature section remains unchanged from 2016–2017.

Full details of the course content can be found in the National 5 Classical Studies Course Specification document 2017–2018 found on the [National 5 Classical Studies web page](#).

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:

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

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

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

Revised Classical Studies National 5 documents and assessment support materials

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

We have published revised course specifications 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. 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 Classical Studies course specification is available on the [National 5 Classical Studies web page](#).

Specimen question paper

The specimen paper makes clear the changes to the questions paper and can be found on the [National 5 Classical Studies web page](#).

As indicated below the key changes have occurred in section 1 and section 2 where they have increased by ten marks. The Classical Literature unit has remained the same:

- Section 1: Life in classical Greece — **30 marks**
- Section 2: Classical literature — **20 marks**
- Section 3: Life in the Roman world — **30 marks**

Coursework assessment task

There has been no change to the assessment of the National 5 Classical Studies Component 2 — assignment. There has been a minor amendment made to Page 7 of the marking instructions within the assignment assessment task to provide clarity to centres. The resource sheet can be found on the [National 5 Classical Studies web page](#).

Changes to documents following Diet 2017

Advanced Higher

The following documents were reviewed and amended to support teachers with the delivery of Advanced Higher Classical Studies in 2017–2018:

Specimen question paper marking instructions

The marking grid on pages 3–9 has been amended to provide clarity.

Both the candidate assessment task and the general assessment information have been updated to provide clarification on skills, knowledge and understanding.

It is recommended that all those involved in the delivery of Classical Studies make themselves familiar with these documents which can be found on the [Classical Studies 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. The audio presentation is designed to provide teachers and lecturers with an overview of the revised National 5 course assessment for session 2017–18. It will cover:

- the overall structure of the revised course assessment
- what has changed and what has remained the same
- an overview of each component
- general guidance on preparing candidates for assessment

You can access the audio presentation from the **CPD audio and support** tab on the [National 5 Classical Studies web page](#).

Understanding Standards materials/events

There is a range of material available, including examples of candidate evidence with commentaries, as part of our Understanding Standards programme. This material is for teachers and lecturers to help them develop their understanding of the standards required for assessment. As new material is developed we will publish this information in our weekly Centre News.

More information on Understanding Standards material for this subject can be found on our [Understanding Standards website](#).

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