

Equality Review Summary



Qualification	Design and Manufacture
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Level	Higher
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REVIEW OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS EQUALITY REVIEW

Date of review	22/11/18
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Coursework and/ or Question Paper revisions

The assignment will be issued on an annual basis and will increase by 20 marks. The assignment will now be externally assessed by SQA. Further marks will be added to the assignment due to the incorporation of outcome 2 of the Design and Manufacture: Materials and Manufacture unit (plan the production of a commercial product). This complements the skills, knowledge and understanding already assessed in the assignment.

The question paper will be extended by 10 marks. The duration of the exam will increase by 15 minutes, to 2 hours 15 minutes, to accommodate the increase in marks. Extending the question paper will allow more skills, knowledge and understanding to be sampled following the removal of units and unit assessments from the course. Specifically, outcome 1 of the Design and Manufacture: Materials and Manufacture unit – analyse the production of a commercial product – will now be incorporated into the question paper.

Equality & inclusion issues

Extension of existing question paper

Disability

Some disabled candidates who require extra time may find increased focus on externally assessed exams more challenging and they may experience fatigue over the longer examination time. For example, candidates with physical disabilities may have difficulties in maintaining stamina or those unable to concentrate for extended periods may have difficulties in maintaining focus and have difficulties in demonstrating their attainment. Other disabled candidates such as those with mental health difficulties or emotional behavioural difficulties may find the longer examination experience overly stressful leading to increased anxiety which could negatively impact on their ability to demonstrate their attainment.

Religion and belief

Some candidates because of religion and belief may experience a higher level of fatigue and be adversely affected in an extended question paper because they are fasting.

Changes to the conditions of assessment for coursework

Where the conditions of assessment have changed to be more controlled, for example, where the time allowed for a task or assignment has been restricted or where a task or assignment has to be completed in one sitting, some disabled candidates may be potentially disadvantaged. However, this disadvantage should be mitigated by the provision of the appropriate assessment arrangements.

Actions that will mitigate any adverse impact outlined above	
<p>We did not identify any general adverse impacts of the extension to existing Coursework on the basis of any protected characteristics. Nor has any general adverse impact been communicated to us.</p> <p>Extension of existing question paper</p> <p>While it is not possible to exempt disabled learners from the external QP at Higher where this is an integral assessment component, the provision of appropriate assessment arrangements and other supportive practices will mitigate the adverse impact for many disabled candidates. For example, by the careful consideration of the amount of extra time being requested and by further consideration being given as to whether there are any other more appropriate assessment arrangements such as using ICT and/or assistive technologies or the inclusion of rest breaks. SQA recognises that reasonable adjustments or assessment arrangements may be incapable of mitigating all of these potential negative impacts entirely.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the decision to extend the existing question has been taken to ensure that the standards, quality and credibility of the National Qualifications are maintained. It is not possible for SQA to take all possible religious festivals and periods of observance into account when constructing the exam timetable. SQA will take into account, through its exceptional circumstances process, any negative impact such as a candidate taking unwell caused by fasting during an examination.</p>	
ORIGINAL NATIONAL QUALIFICATION DEVELOPMENT EQUALITY REVIEW	
Date of review	15 May 2015
Summary of Conclusion and recommendation	
<p>The Higher Design and Manufacture Course differs in purpose and aim from the equivalent Courses at National 4 and National 5. It does so most obviously by requiring learners to give greater priority to evaluating design proposals and arriving at a resolved design. Of necessity, this may reduce time spent on crafting quality prototypes. Subsequently it is likely to increase the time spent on making practical models in order to inform and refine design proposals.</p> <p>Flexibility in the use of manual and/or CAD equipment and the wide range of acceptable types of evidence should reduce barriers for many learners. The use of practical helpers and/or assistive technologies may also be allowed to support learners in demonstrating practical skills.</p> <p>The adverse impact of the potential barrier identified by the requirement to work independently at Higher can be mitigated by allowing the candidate to access the human support normally provided, where this does not compromise the integrity of the assessment.</p>	