

Equality Review Summary



Qualification	English
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Level	Higher
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REVIEW OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS EQUALITY REVIEW

Date of review	19 September 2018
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Coursework and/ or Question Paper revisions

A new performance-spoken language component will be introduced to assess the skills of talking and listening. It will be assessed as achieved/not achieved and candidates will need to achieve the minimum requirements of this component to gain the course award. There are no changes to the portfolio-writing. The new performance-spoken language component will assess the skills of talking and listening, which are currently assessed through the units

There are no changes to the question papers.

Equality & inclusion issues

New coursework component

No changes have been made to the aims, rationale or content of the course. Only the Course assessment has changed as outlined above. This means that the original equality review carried out and attached remains valid and fit for purpose. It should be noted however, that the Units, which were a feature of the original ERF, have now been removed.

The new performance-spoken language component will assess the skills of talking and listening, which are currently assessed through the units. This mirrors the structure of the National 5 course and will ensure that candidates continue to be assessed on these skills once the units are removed from the course from session 2018-19.

The equality issues related to the assessment of Talking and Listening skills as outlined in the ERF attached for Higher 5 English remain unchanged with the introduction of the new mandatory spoken language component. For example, Deaf candidates and candidates with hearing impairments and other candidates with Speech and Language impairments may have difficulty with talking and listening.

Actions that will mitigate any adverse impact outlined above

Use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) for candidates who cannot make themselves understood effectively through ordinary oral speech could be considered. Use of BSL for Talking and Listening in the mandatory 'Spoken Language' component could be considered if candidates are able to generate the necessary evidence for the assessment standards for Talking and Listening at this level.

Exemption from the assessment of Talking and/or Listening skills could be considered dependent on the disabled candidate's individual needs.

ORIGINAL NATIONAL QUALIFICATION DEVELOPMENT EQUALITY REVIEW

Date of review	19 June 2013
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Summary of Conclusion and recommendation

For those disabled candidates for whom aspects of the qualification may present potential barriers, reasonable adjustments can be considered on an individual basis to mitigate the adverse impact.

For disabled candidates who experience difficulties in accessing the external examination question paper because of difficulty understanding language, Question Paper Setters are provided with advice and guidance on designing inclusive assessments including the use of accessible language.