

# Equality Review Summary



<b>Qualification</b>	Computing Science
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<b>Level</b>	National 5
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## REVIEW OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS EQUALITY REVIEW

<b>Date of review</b>	30/06/2017
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### Coursework and/ or Question Paper revisions

The assignment will be externally assessed by SQA and as a result the nature and structure of the assignment will change. The marks awarded for the assignment will reduce from 60 marks to 50 marks.

The question paper will be extended to include more questions and the number of available marks will increase from 90 marks to 110 marks. The duration of the exam will therefore also increase.

### Equality & inclusion issues

No changes have been made to the aims, rationale or content of the course. Only the Course assessment have 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.

#### Extension of 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. For example, candidates with physical disabilities or those unable to concentrate for extended periods may have difficulties 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.

##### Religion and belief

Some candidates may experience fatigue and be adversely affected in an extended question paper because they are fasting, for example this could impact on Muslim candidates who fast during Ramadan.

### Actions that will mitigate any adverse impact outlined above

While it is not possible to exempt disabled learners from the external QP at National 5 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. 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 being unwell caused by fasting during an examination.

## **ORIGINAL NATIONAL QUALIFICATION DEVELOPMENT EQUALITY REVIEW**

<b>Date of review</b>	09/06/2015
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### **Summary of Conclusion and recommendation**

The aims of the Computing Science Course are to develop skills in programming, development and research and the ability to apply knowledge and understanding of computing science concepts and processes. This will require learners to plan and design a solution to a problem, implement and test the solution.

Flexibility in the use of assistive technologies 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.